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THE NEW EXCHANGE AT BIRMINGHAM.

AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

THE latest news from America is rather perplexing. The expedition against Wilmington appears to have been abandoned, the attack on Fort Fisher has failed, and General Lee is said to be preparing an offensive movement. So far affairs look well for the Confederates. On the other hand, the Secretary of State of the Confederate Government has issued a series of instructions as to the treatment of neutral vessels by Confederate cruisers, which, if they are observed, may force England to adopt the same attitude towards the South that she was compelled to assume towards the North after the seizure of the Trent. It appears that the English Vice-Admiral Hope had called the attention of the Captain of the Florida to the fact of a vessel with a British register having been burned by the Alabama. To this the Confederate Government replies by publishing a set of improvised rules for the guidance of Confederate cruisers in the event of their capturing an enemy's ship with neutral cargo, a neutral ship with enemy's cargo, or a ship ostensibly neutral but in reality hostile. The Confederate Government suggests in one part of this curious manifesto (addressed, as it is, to foreign Powers, and especially to England, much more than to its own naval officers) that England should no longer be guilty of "the impropriety and impolicy of shutting its ports to the introduction of prizes made by Confederate vessels." If, however, England should persist in not allowing the Confederates, who have no available ports of their own, to make use of ours, then a Confederate officer who seizes a prize of which the ownership is doubtful may, at his own discretion, destroy it!

It is easy to understand the "fix" in which the Confederate Government finds itself now that it has been formally warned by a British Admiral not to behave illegally at sea. With regard to neutral vessels and neutral property, it must either behave illegally or do nothing. Not being master of its own harbours, it cannot conform to the law which binds captors to take doubtful prizes into port for adjudication; and it therefore announces that it will disregard the law, and invents a new one for its own particular case. It would be just as reasonable, and would have much the same effect, if a private person were to announce that he did not mean to pay his debts. The Confederate Government is not in a position to capture neutrals; but, if it persists in doing so, it must be prepared to pay the penalty. "How," it demands, "are we to take neutral vessels into port when no ports are open to us?" "If such be the case"—the natural answer is—"you had better leave neutral vessels alone."

That, we imagine, is the course the Confederate Government will really pursue, partly because it would be very imprudent to do otherwise, but, above all, because it now has no cruisers afloat.

One passage in the "instructions" contains an allusion to "renewed representations" which, it appears, the Confederate Government is about to make to foreign Powers on the subject of their unwillingness to receive Confederate prizes into their ports. These, or any other, representations which it may be intended to address to England should, we think, have preceded the issue of the "instructions." It is a most ill-timed publication, and will certainly not make the English Government more inclined than it has hitherto been to recognise the Southern Confederacy. The moment for taking this step was thought by some to have at last arrived; and the fact of Mr. Lincoln having this time been re-elected to the presidential chair by Northern votes alone, did certainly seem to afford good grounds for regarding North and South as two entirely distinct communities. The Southerners had taken part in the election of 1861, and it was reasonable enough to argue that they were bound by the result, just as the North would have been bound by it had the Southern candidate been chosen. But towards the incoming President and his Administration, it is needless to say, they have contracted no obligations. They have gone their own way and maintained themselves in it for four years; and if the North should subdue them now, such a result would not be the suppression of a rebellion so much as the conquest of one nation by another. It is strange that the Confederates should have chosen this particular time, when the new Federal Government is just about to enter upon its functions, for issuing a blustering manifesto in the shape of "instructions" to the captains of imaginary cruisers.

In the meanwhile the Northern journals still exult over the triumph of General Sherman at Savannah, and announce that the "cutting-up system," which he applied so successfully in Georgia, is soon to be carried out in Virginia. No one imagines, however, that in Virginia his march will be a mere military promenade. The expedition through Georgia to Savannah has been foolishly compared to Napoleon's expedition to Moscow. But Sherman had only 40,000 men; the country he passed through afforded provisions in abundance; the whole distance he traversed was scarcely more than 300 miles, and he had no enemy to contest his progress. Napoleon, on the other hand, from the time he left Wilna until he reached Moscow, marched nearly a thousand miles; his line of advance had been ravaged with the express view of starving his army, he had half a million troops to provide for, he was constantly harassed by light cavalry, and he had to fight two great battles and take one city (Smolensk) by storm before arriving at the end of his marvellous journey. But General Sherman is now the Napoleon of the Federal army. McClellan was its Napoleon at one time—"the young Napoleon" we believe he was called. It would take a great many of these young Napoleons to make a Napoleon at all like the old one.

THE NEW EXCHANGE AT BIRMINGHAM.

WE last week published an Engraving and some account of the inauguration of the new Exchange at Birmingham. We now present our readers with an Engraving of the building, which has been erected by a limited liability company at a cost of upwards of £20,000. The buildings, which have been nearly two years in progress, are situated in close proximity to the central railway station in New-street, and the noble free grammar-school of King Edward VI., a capital example of the work of the late Sir Charles Barry. The exterior of the exchange buildings is of stone, in the Gothic style of architecture, treated in the fashion prevailing in most of the leading cities on the Continent. The main front is in Stephenson-place, forming a handsome facade, having a central clock tower 145 ft. high, and wings at the extreme ends. The intermediate portion of the edifice is four stories high, exclusive of the mezzanine; but the side wings are carried up an additional story, and the upper wing is continued to the same height throughout the New-street-front, which forms an elegant mass, unbroken in main outline, except by the dormer-windows and chimney-stacks, which rise rather gracefully from the high-pitched roofs; and by an angle turret, which springs from a deeply-enriched corbel, and, carried by a granite shaft, rises about 45 ft. above the main cornice. Over the clock a gallery extends round the tower, from which a charming and extensive view of the surrounding country is obtained. In New-street and Stephenson-place the lower part of the edifice is appropriated to a number of handsome shops, fitted up in the most approved modern style, all of them being already tenanted. The main entrance to the Exchange is beneath a lofty arch, supported by polished granite columns, inclosed by large iron gates of elaborate ornamental design. The Exchange hall is a spacious apartment, 70 ft. long, 40 ft. wide, and 23 ft. high, with boarded and panelled ceiling, the beams of which are supported by ten groups of iron clustered columns, in two rows, standing on stone octagonal bases; and the room is lighted by six lofty three-light windows, with tracery heads. In addition to an assembly-room and the usual offices, a telegraph office, with windows into the Exchange, adjoins the principal entrance. There are, besides, committee and refreshment rooms, and a hall for the Chamber of Commerce. The clock has illuminated dials, and the mechanism is worked by electro-magnetic power, executed with remarkable ingenuity and skill by Mr. John Inshaw, of the steam-clock, Birmingham. In front of the main entrance stands a statue of Mr. Thomas Attwood, the founder of the famous political union which played so prominent a part in the agitation which preceded the passing of the Reform Bill.

The buildings were erected from the designs of Mr. Edward Holmes, architect, of Birmingham, which were chosen in competition, and the works were carried out by Messrs. Branson and Murray, the contractors for the Midland Institute buildings and Central Reference Library.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

Orders have been received at Toulon to put out of commission and lay up in ordinary sixteen ships of different classes; and at the same time it is reported that the army is to be reduced to 380,000 men, and that the contingent for 1866 is to be fixed at 80,000 instead of 100,000.

M. Fould's financial report to the Emperor was published on Tuesday. The deficit for 1863 is stated to be 15,000,000f. less than was anticipated; the revenue and expenditure of 1864 will probably be balanced; and for 1865 a reduction in the military and naval departments of 4,400,000f. will be effected. This favourable result is mainly owing to the proposed reduction in the military and naval services, which, as M. Fould remarks, indicates the peaceful sentiments with which the Emperor is animated towards Europe.

Several French bishops have addressed letters to the Minister of Public Worship deprecating the course adopted by the Government in forbidding the publication of the whole of the Pope's encyclical letter. The Bishop of Moulins, boldly setting the Government at defiance, has read the whole of the Papal document from his pulpit and addressed a circular to his clergy on the subject. His letter has been laid before the Council as exceeding his legal functions.

SPAIN.

The Government of Spain have resolved on abandoning their pretensions to San Domingo. Marshal Narvaez has submitted a bill to the Cortes for that purpose, the preamble of which says:—"Spain believed that the Dominicans were desirous of living under Spanish protection, but resistance has become too serious to render it possible any longer to maintain such an illusion. It would be a conquest, and the policy of Spain is not one of conquest."

It is asserted that General Pareja carries to Peru the following instructions:—

The Peruvian authorities shall disavow all participation in the outrage upon the Envoy sent from Spain, and upon Spanish subjects, and shall take judicial proceedings against the authors of the violence committed. Immediately the prosecution has been commenced Spain, without awaiting the result, will restore the Chincha Islands to Peru. The Republic shall subsequently send a Plenipotentiary to Madrid to conclude a treaty of commerce and amity between the two countries.

PORTUGAL.

In the Speech from the Throne, at the opening of the Cortes on the 2nd inst., the King congratulated the representatives on the friendly relations of the country with foreign Powers. His Majesty stated, also, that the accession of the Emperor Maximilian to the Mexican throne was likely to lead to important commercial relations between Mexico and Portugal.

ITALY.

Some discussion has taken place in the Italian Parliament in reference to the circumstances under which the lives of the brigands La Gala have been spared, which was stated to have been done in consequence of an engagement made by the late Ministry with France. On Tuesday the Minister of Justice said that the lives of Gala and his accomplices were spared in consequence of moral engagements. France placed no condition on the extradition of the brigands, and the Italian Government was subjected to no pressure. The House did not seem quite satisfied with the Ministerial answer, and rejected a proposal to pursue the subject no further. The whole question has awakened the keenest interest throughout Italy, where the mere suspicion that the late Ministry had accepted conditions from France which would interfere with the free course of Italian law caused the utmost indignation.

The report of the Committee on the events of September in Turin says:—

There was no provocation justifying or excusing the violence exercised by the Executive. The committee regrets that the Government did not display that unity of action, energy, and foresight required by the gravity of the circumstances. It also regrets that the nation was misled concerning the nature of those occurrences.

Meetings have been held at Bologna and Brescia at which it was resolved to petition Parliament for the suppression of religious corporations, the abolition of capital punishment, and the conversion of mortmain property.

AUSTRIA.

The Austrian Government has announced that the Pope's encyclical and the list of errors appended may be promulgated by the Bishops in the ordinary way. The Concordat does not leave the Government any right to interfere in regard to a document which the latter regards merely as a statement of the Pontifical views in no way requiring any alteration of the laws and regulations at present existing in Austria.

POLAND.

Berlin papers talk of a fresh outbreak in Poland being in course of projection. The movement is stated to be promoted by Polish refugees living abroad, and is to begin in Lithuania and Samogitia. This piece of news must, however, be received with great caution.

DENMARK.

The Minister of Finance has submitted a bill to the Rigsgaad throwing the coasting trade open to all nations who will grant a similar privilege to Danish shipping.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.
CAPTURE OF SAVANNAH.

Our intelligence from New York, which is to the 31st ult., is of much importance. General Hardee evacuated Savannah, with his whole forces, on the evening of the 20th, having previously destroyed the navy-yard and two Confederate ironclads. On the following day General Sherman took possession of the city, together with 150 cannon, a large quantity of ammunition, and 25,000 bales of cotton. Forster states that 800 stragglers, thirteen locomotives, and 190 cars were also captured, and that on the 22nd he moved his steamers up to the city. General Beauregard announces from Charleston, under date of the 25th, that Sherman has sent a column southward from Savannah, probably to destroy the Savannah, Albany, and Gulf Railway, but that Hardee had made dispositions to check the movement. A letter says that the leading citizens of Savannah urged Hardee to evacuate without fighting, and thus avoid the probable destruction of the city. The Southern papers regard the evacuation as no loss, considering that the garrison was saved. The *New York Times* says that the next object of Sherman's operations is Augusta, whence he will destroy all communication with Charleston, compel its abandonment, then capture Raleigh, and finally join Grant against Richmond—all of which operations are to be accomplished before spring.

FAILURE OF THE WILMINGTON EXPEDITION.

The great expedition against Wilmington has proved a failure. Admiral Porter reports that his whole fleet bombarded Fort Fisher, Wilmington, on Saturday, the 24th, having previously exploded a large powder-ship under the walls of the fort, the shock doing little damage. The bombardment continued until dark. On the afternoon of Sunday, the 25th, a body of troops, under Weitzel, landed, under the fire of the fleet, some entering the outworks, and capturing a flag. Weitzel captured two batteries and advanced within fifty yards of the fort. Finding an assault impracticable, however, he re-embarked his troops the same evening.

The point of attack was a series of works commanding the eastern inlet to Cape Fear River, about twenty miles below Wilmington. These are situated on the southern extremity of a narrow strip of land, the eastern side of which is open to the Atlantic, and therefore to the operations of the Federal fleet and army. The principal fortification—Fort Fisher—is described as "a casemated earth-work," of great power, mounting thirty-six heavy guns, some of them rifled, and having a range of more than three miles. This fort was the key of the position and was the object of the Federal bombardment. The armament which made the attack was extremely formidable. It consisted, according to the various accounts of the Federal press, of from fifty to eighty war ships, carrying from 600 to 700 guns, some of them of the largest calibre; and two divisions of the Federal army, under General Butler, accompanied the fleet. It is said that at least 200 guns could be brought to bear at one time upon the fort. If this be an accurate account, the complete failure of so extraordinary a force to make any considerable impression upon an earthwork, however powerful, will be one of the most remarkable incidents of the war. The attack was opened by a novel expedient. A ship, containing between two and three hundred tons of gunpowder, was run on shore under the walls of the fort, and was there exploded. The effects anticipated from this explosion may be estimated from the fact that the whole amount of powder which produced the late terrible explosion at Erith was but fifty-five tons. Indeed, the idea was partly suggested by the account of that event. Immediately after this attempt the bombardment was commenced, and was continued throughout the day, an average fire being kept up, according to the Confederate account, of no less than thirty shots a minute. The Confederates replied, it is said, slowly and deliberately, and at the end of the day they report their loss at only twenty-three men wounded. The bombardment was renewed on Sunday morning, and at the same time the co-operating force of General Butler effected a landing above the fort. The news of the lodgment was received with some anxiety in Richmond; but the Confederates were soon relieved. The troops made a reconnaissance in the rear of the fort the same evening, but found the works to be of such strength that an assault was impracticable. General Butler and his subordinate officer decided, in fact, that the works were impregnable except by protracted siege operations. These it was considered impossible to undertake, partly in consequence of the high sea which prevailed, and which made it difficult to land the troops, and partly in consequence of the rapid advance of a force from Wilmington. The troops were therefore re-embarked on the Monday morning and sent back to Fortress Monroe.

Admiral Porter had withdrawn the fleet to Beaufort, North Carolina, to await further orders. General Butler had returned to his head-quarters with the army of the James river, leaving General Weitzel in command of the late Wilmington expedition. Admiral Porter thinks Butler's forces might have captured Fort Fisher had he made a more determined attack. The land forces included some black troops, who suffered severely from the Confederate fire.

GENERAL NEWS.

Despatches from New Orleans of the 22nd ult., via Cairo, state that a formidable military expedition, commanded by General Granger, had landed at Pascagoula and pushed rapidly towards Mobile, skirmishing. The advance commenced near Franklin's Creek on the 15th. Confederate accounts state that another party, operating on the Great Northern Railway, running from Mobile, had been driven back.

At Richmond there had been no new movement, but it was reported that Lee was preparing to attack the Federals. The Southern press urge Lee's appointment as Commander-in-Chief of the armies of the Confederacy.

Generals Coster and Torbett, of Sheridan's cavalry, reconnoitring near Harrisburg and Gordonsville, on the 23rd, were driven back with considerable loss by the Confederate Generals Rosser and Lomas.

There are contradictory reports as to Hood's movements. One account says that he had crossed the Tennessee. Another states that the Federal gun-boats had prevented him from crossing, and even adds that the remnant of his army had been captured.

The Brazilian demand for explanation and reparation for the seizure of the Florida had been replied to by a note from Mr. Seward. Regret is expressed for the proceeding at Bahia. Captain Collins is suspended and ordered to be tried by court-martial. The United States Consul at Bahia is dismissed, and the men captured in the Florida are to be set at liberty. Mr. Seward says the United States have a complaint against Brazil for recognising the Confederates as belligerents; but he adds that it is no part of the duty of an officer to take upon himself the redressing of his country's wrongs.

President Davis had issued a proclamation assuming the responsibility for the attempted seizure of the steamer Michigan on Lake Erie and the release of the prisoners on Johnson's Island. He says, however, that his officers were specially enjoined to avoid any violation of neutrality.

The re-arrest of the Vermont raiders continued. Five were confined in Montreal and were undergoing their trial; another had been taken at Toronto. Three others who entered New Hampshire and enlisted in the Federal service had been detected and consigned to the State prison at Concord.

THE WHOLE OF THE RANGE OF HOUSES which formerly stood on the north side of New Palace-yard has now been removed, Fendall's Hotel, the last of them, which stood until a day or two ago, having at length disappeared. There is now an uninterrupted space between the north side of Bridge-street and Westminster Hall.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION.

THE Canadian journals publish the subjoined despatch from Mr. Cardwell to Lord Monck, Governor-General of Canada, relative to the proposed confederation of the British North American provinces:—

Downing-street, Dec. 3, 1864.

My Lord,—Her Majesty's Government have received with the most cordial satisfaction your Lordship's despatch of the 7th ult., transmitting for their consideration the resolutions adopted by the representatives of the several provinces of British North America, which were assembled at Quebec. With the sanction of the Crown, and upon the invitation of the Governor-General, men of every province, chosen by the respective Lieutenant-Governors, without distinction of party, assembled to consider questions of the utmost interest to every subject of the Queen, of whatever race or faith, resident in those provinces, and have arrived at a conclusion destined to exercise a most important influence upon the future welfare of the whole community. Animated by the warmest sentiments of loyalty and devotion to their Sovereign, earnestly desirous to secure for their posterity throughout all future time the advantages which they enjoy as subjects of the British crown, steadfastly attached to the institutions under which they live, they have conducted their deliberations with patient sagacity, and have arrived at unanimous conclusions on questions involving many difficulties, and calculated, under less favourable auspices, to have given rise to many differences of opinion. Such an event is in the highest degree honourable to those who have taken part in these deliberations. It must inspire confidence in the men by whose judgment and temper this result has been attained, and will ever remain on record as an evidence of the salutary influence exercised by the institutions under which these qualities have been so signally developed. Her Majesty's Government have given to your despatch and to the resolutions of the conference their most deliberate consideration. They have regarded them as a whole, and as having been designed by those who have framed them to establish as complete and perfect an union of the whole into one Government as the circumstances of the case and a due consideration of existing interests would admit. They accept them, therefore, as being, in the deliberate judgment of those best qualified to decide upon the subject, the best framework of a measure to be passed by the Imperial Parliament for attaining that most desirable result. The point of principal importance to the practical well-working of the scheme is the accurate determination of the limits between the authority of the central and that of the local Legislatures in their relation to each other. It has not been possible to exclude from the resolutions some provisions which appear to be less consistent than might, perhaps, have been desired with the simplicity and unity of the system. But, upon the whole, it appears to her Majesty's Government that precautions have been taken which are obviously intended to secure to the Central Government the means of effective action throughout the several provinces, and to guard against those evils which must inevitably arise if any doubt were permitted to exist as to the respective limits of central and local authority. They are glad to observe that, although large powers of legislation are intended to be vested in local bodies, yet the principle of central control has been steadily kept in view. The importance of this principle cannot be overrated. Its maintenance is essential to the practical efficiency of the system, and to its harmonious operation, both in the general administration and in the governments of the several provinces. A very important part of this subject is the expense which may attend the working of the central and local Governments. Her Majesty's Government cannot but express the earnest hope that the arrangements which may be adopted in this respect may not be of such a nature as to increase, at least in any considerable degree, the whole expenditure, or to make any material addition to the taxation, and thereby retard the internal industry, or tend to impose new burdens on the commerce of the country. Her Majesty's Government are anxious to lose no time in conveying to you their general approval of the proceedings of the Conference. There are, however, two provisions of great importance which seem to require revision. The first of these is the provision contained in the 44th resolution with respect to the exercise of the prerogative of pardon. It appears to her Majesty's Government that this duty belongs to the representative of the Sovereign, and could not with propriety be devolved upon the Lieutenant-Governors, who will under the scheme be appointed, not directly by the Crown, but by the Central Government of the United Provinces. The second point which her Majesty's Government desire should be reconsidered is the constitution of the Legislative Council. They appreciate the considerations which have influenced the conference in determining the mode in which this body, so important in the constitution of the Legislature, should be composed. But it appears to them to require further consideration whether, if the members be appointed for life and their number fixed, there will be any sufficient means of restoring harmony between the Legislative Council and the popular Assembly, if it shall ever unfortunately happen that a decided difference of opinion shall arise between them. These two points, relating to the prerogative of the Crown and to the constitution of the Upper Chamber, have appeared to require distinct and separate notice. Questions of minor consequence and matters of detailed arrangement may properly be reserved for a future time, when the provisions of the bill intended to be submitted to the Imperial Parliament shall come under consideration. Her Majesty's Government anticipate no serious difficulty in this part of the case, since the resolutions will generally be found sufficiently explicit to guide those who will be intrusted with the preparation of the bill. It appears to them, therefore, that you should now take immediate measures, in concert with the Lieutenant-Governors of the several provinces, for submitting to the respective Legislatures this project of the conference; and if, as I hope, you are able to report that these Legislatures sanction and adopt the scheme, her Majesty's Government will render you all the assistance in their power for carrying it into effect. It will probably be found to be the most convenient course that, in concert with Lieutenant-Governors, you should select a deputation of the persons best qualified to proceed to this country, that they may be present during the preparation of the bill, and to give to her Majesty's Government the benefit of their counsel upon any questions which may arise during the passage of the measure through the two Houses of Parliament.—I have, &c.,

E. CARDWELL.

ROMANTIC TRIAL IN SPAIN.

THE Supreme Tribunal of Barcelona, in Spain, has been for some time past engaged in hearing a trial from a judgment given by an inferior Court of that district in July, 1861, relative to the identity of a young man who claimed to be the son of a wealthy banker of Barcelona, dead some years ago. The circumstances of this strange affair may be briefly stated as follows:—The Marquis Don Francisco de Cara-Fontenallas, a partner in the well-known banking firm of Lamberto y Fontenallas, had two sons, Don Lamberto and Don Claudio, and one daughter, Donna Eulalia, married to the Marquis of Villamediana, residing on his extensive estates in the neighbourhood of Madrid. In September, 1845, the younger son, Don Claudio, then twenty-three years of age, suddenly disappeared, and all efforts to find him proved fruitless. It was afterwards ascertained that he had been seized by the brigands, who carried him off to the mountains. Some days later, however, two or three letters were addressed to the Marquis by his son, stating that he was in the power of brigands, who refused to release him until a ransom of 1000 ounces of gold should be paid. Perhaps the Marquis did not believe in the reality of the capture, and regarded it merely as an expedient adopted by his son to obtain a large sum of money. At all events, he did not send the gold demanded, and from that time nothing was heard of Don Claudio till May, 1860. Meanwhile, the Marquis made a will, dated May, 1850, in which he expressed his wish that his property should not be divided between Don Lamberto and Donna Eulalia until his lost son had been found or his death satisfactorily proved. When the Marquis died, some time after, Don Lamberto succeeded to the title, and at once divided his father's property between himself and his sister, the Marchioness de Villamediana. This prompt division of the property caused some scandal at the time, as the provisions of the will were generally known, but it was soon forgotten. In 1852, however, a man named Gomez, who had been arrested for robbery, gave the police a full account of the abduction of Don Claudio by the brigands, and the authorities determined on making a further investigation, when it was found that all the documents relating to the circumstances had disappeared, with the exception of Don Claudio's two letters written while in the power of the brigands, which the deceased Marquis had given to a police magistrate in 1850. The investigation, therefore, led to nothing; but nine years later, in 1861, Don Lamberto, the new Marquis, received a letter, dated May 15, and signed "Your brother, Don Claudio," stating that the writer had just arrived at Barcelona by the steamer Puerto Rico from Charleston. Don Lamberto immediately sent an old clerk of the bank, named Don Francisco Juan Marti, to meet his brother. As soon as Marti set foot on the deck, he was accosted by Don Claudio, who called him by his name and shed tears of joy on meeting him. They went together to the Marquis Don Lamberto, who appeared to gladly recognise the young man as his brother Claudio, and instantly sent off a telegraphic despatch to his sister, the Marchioness of Villamediana, announcing the return of their brother. On the following day Don Lamberto informed the Governor of Barcelona of his brother's arrival, and also formally acknowledged him as his brother in presence of a magistrate. Not the least

doubt was entertained by anybody that the new comer was really Don Claudio, and he continued to be entertained by his brother as such till the 23rd of May; but at two o'clock in the morning of that day he was arrested by the police in his brother's house, on the charge of being an impostor. This arrest was afterwards ascertained to have been made at the instance of the Marquis and Marchioness of Villamediana. Don Claudio was so overcome by this terrible accusation that he was instantly seized with a violent fever, and begged to have a glass of water, which was brought by one of the servants. He had no sooner drunk it than he exclaimed that he was poisoned. He was, nevertheless, carried off to prison, where antidotes were administered and he recovered, after three weeks' illness, but still remained in the prison infirmary in a very weak state. While he lay there a tailor and his wife, named Felu, were brought to see him, and they declared the supposed Don Claudio to be their son Claudio, who had gone to Buenos Ayres in 1857, being then only twenty years of age; their son and daughter also recognised him as their brother. All four gave evidence on oath to this effect. Two other persons, however—Don Claudio's nurse and foster-brother—declared that he was really Don Claudio. In his defence before the examining magistrate, Don Claudio produced four documents in which he was styled Don Claudio Fontenallas. The first was his commission as ensign in the army of Buenos Ayres, dated April, 1857, which proved that he could not be Claudio Felu, as the latter sailed from Barcelona to Buenos Ayres late in February in that year, and therefore could not have arrived at the time. The second was a passport delivered to Don Claudio Fontenallas by the Spanish Consul at Rosario de Santa Fé; the third was a commission of sub-lieutenant of artillery, dated Buenos Ayres, July 22, 1858; and the fourth was the muster-roll of the men under his orders in a ship which he had commanded. These four documents, of such vital importance for the accused, were left in the possession of the examining magistrate, who, when the cause was tried, asserted that he had lost them. During the trial a great number of witnesses were examined, but their evidence was contradictory; some declaring that the prisoner was really Don Claudio Fontenallas, others as positively maintaining that he was the tailor's son. The prisoner himself explained the manner of his capture, how one day he had escaped from the brigands while they were intoxicated, and made his way to Barcelona. He did not go home, because, as his father had refused to pay the ransom, he concluded that the brigands had acted by his orders; but what could be his father's motive for giving such orders he did not know. He therefore went to America, and remained there till 1861. When several old servants of the deceased Marquis were examined, the prisoner reminded them of many circumstances which could hardly be known to any except the real Don Claudio; but the Marquis de Villamediana, though she had at first recognised the prisoner as her brother, afterwards declared herself convinced of the contrary, as she had found him unacquainted with many facts which her brother must have known. The result of the trial was that the Tribunal, which consisted of only one Judge, declared that the prisoner was the son of Felu, and condemned him to twelve years' hard labour. The Tribunal also ordered that twenty of the prisoner's witnesses should be prosecuted for perjury. The prisoner's counsel, M. Niviera, complained that the defence had not been free, that the Judge had refused to hear several of his witnesses, and also that his demand for further inquiry in the Argentine Republic had been rejected, and concluded with protesting against the manner in which the previous examinations and the trial had been conducted. In consequence of those observations the Judge committed him to prison for contempt of Court. The conviction was so general at Barcelona that the prisoner had been unfairly treated that a subscription was opened in his favour, which produced a sum of 40,000*l*. Part of this sum was applied to relieve the prisoner's immediate necessities, and the rest was offered to M. Caso, a celebrated advocate of Madrid, to conduct the appeal against the above judgment. After long delays the appeal was made, and the Supreme Court of Barcelona has given its decision, substantially confirming the judgment, but reducing the sentence of hard labour from twelve years to two. The prisoner's counsel was reprimanded by the Court, and thirteen witnesses were declared guilty of perjury.

DISPUTE IN THE BUILDING TRADE.

THE advent of the year 1865 has been accompanied by an unfortunate dispute in the building trade that bids fair to exceed in magnitude any of the many which have previously taken place, and which, on this occasion, has arisen from the masters' side, a powerful association of whom in the midland counties a few weeks back suddenly gave notice to their workmen of their intention to give each man who left their employ a "discharge-note," without the production of which he would be unable to obtain employment from any master or member of the association—the avowed object of this "note" being to thwart the combinations existing amongst the workmen, and counteract all strikes, by preventing those men taking part in them from obtaining employment elsewhere. As might be expected, this movement on the part of the employers has called forth the most determined opposition from the men—"non-society" as well as "society" men—and has already led to strikes in most of the large towns in the midland district, an extensive agitation amongst the building operatives throughout the kingdom, and engendered an amount of ill-feeling that it will take a long time to eradicate. The following is the resolution of the employers belonging to what is called the General Builders' Association, extending over the midland counties and comprising 350 employers:—

That, with a view to counteract the evils resulting both to masters and operatives from unjustifiable strikes and combinations, the following plan be adopted:—That, on and after the 1st day of January, 1865, every member of this association shall, upon paying off any operative, deliver him a discharge-note, which shall state the man's name, and shall be signed by or for the master. That each member of the association pledges himself not to take into his employ any operative who (having previously worked for a member of this association) does not first produce and deliver to his proposed employer his former discharge-note, or, in case of its loss, the name and residence of his previous employer, for reference."

The resolution, with a copy of the form of the note, was posted up in the various building establishments throughout the midland districts the second week in December.

The operatives, at their meetings and elsewhere, freely acknowledge the right of the masters to combine together, as they claim the same right for themselves; but say that this combination, taken in connection with the powers given by their capital, is quite sufficient to meet any combination of men, without resorting to what they call the un-English system of a discharge-note or reducing the workmen to a state of serfdom. They contend that, independent of any strike, this note may be made an instrument of great annoyance and gross oppression in the hands of an unprincipled or spiteful employer or foreman, and places in the hands of an employer a power over his workmen that no employer ought to possess, depriving the workman of his right to work for whom or where he thinks proper. A speaker at the Manchester operatives' meeting last week said:—"If the masters only made use of a comma, a full stop, or wrote upon a piece of coloured paper, according to understood signs, it would have its significance, and the bearer would unconsciously carry his own condemnation in his pocket." The operatives further contend that the masters, by their introduction of the note, have committed a breach of faith. When the strikes of last year were settled it was mutually agreed, and in many cases agreements were signed, that, before any further alterations in the rules or customs of the trade were made, six months' clear notice should be given on each side, while this discharge-note is attempted to be enforced by the employers with less than one month's notice.

The masters' association, whose head-quarters are at Birmingham, extends to the following towns:—Wolverhampton, Walsall, Nottingham, Coventry, Stourbridge, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Gloucester, Lichfield, Rugby, Wednesbury, Stafford, Dudley, Warwick, Derby, Leicester, Kidderminster, Hanley, the Potteries, and about a dozen other smaller towns in the midland district. Immediately on the promulgation of the notice in Birmingham, the carpenters of that town held an aggregate meeting of their body on

Tuesday, the 13th ult., at which resolutions were unanimously adopted denouncing the "note" and pledging the men to cease working on the following day for every master belonging to the association who would not consent to withdraw the notice. The result was that on Wednesday, the 14th ult., 800 carpenters and joiners struck work; and it was settled, as the carpenters had struck, the battle should in the first instance be fought by them, the other branches of the trade keeping at work under protest, and subscribing to the support of the carpenters; but, at the same time, should any man leaving the employ of an association master have the note offered to him, he was to refuse to accept the same, inform his trade committee of the tender, and the whole of the men in the branch were at once to be called out. About a dozen of the employers, on seeing the attitude taken by the men, withdrew the notice, pledging themselves not to introduce the note, and their men resumed their employment. Several other employers publicly expressed their disapproval of the note, and promised to use their best efforts to induce the association to rescind its resolutions. Large meetings of the building operatives were also held in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Plymouth, Hull, and other places, at all of which resolutions to put on a 6*d*. weekly levy throughout the trade in support of the men out were agreed to. Fully one third of the operatives who have struck are non-society men, who equally with the society men feel the degradation to which they would be subjected by the "ticket of leave." The society men out receive half wages from their respective societies; while the general levy, to which large numbers of non-society men now contribute, go to the support of the non-society men on strike.

The following is the position of the dispute up to the end of last week:—In Birmingham about 800 carpenters are on strike; in Coventry about 400 men, comprising all branches; in Walsall about 400 of all branches; in Nottingham about 700 *do*.; in Malvern about 100 *do*.; and about 1000 in the other towns.

At a meeting of the masters' association held in Birmingham, on Friday week, the following resolutions were adopted:—

That the members of the General Builders' Association have the best feelings towards operatives employed by them, and much regret the hostility manifested on the proposed introduction of the "discharge-note" (which is only a defensive measure), the operatives, evidently completely misunderstanding its objects and meaning, as it does not, and cannot, interfere with their privileges or liberties as workmen and Englishmen. The only particulars which will be entered upon the "discharge-note" will be the name and address of the employer, the name of the employed, and the date of the discharge. That the "discharge-note" shall not be withheld from a workman at his leaving the service of an employer under any circumstances whatever, except in cases of strike, in which case each workman shall, at the termination of such strike, be entitled to a "discharge-note" from his last employer. That only one form of "discharge-note" can be used, being that issued by the General Builders' Association, and it must be generally understood that the "discharge-note" does not mean a character, and the counterfoil will be a facsimile of the note itself.

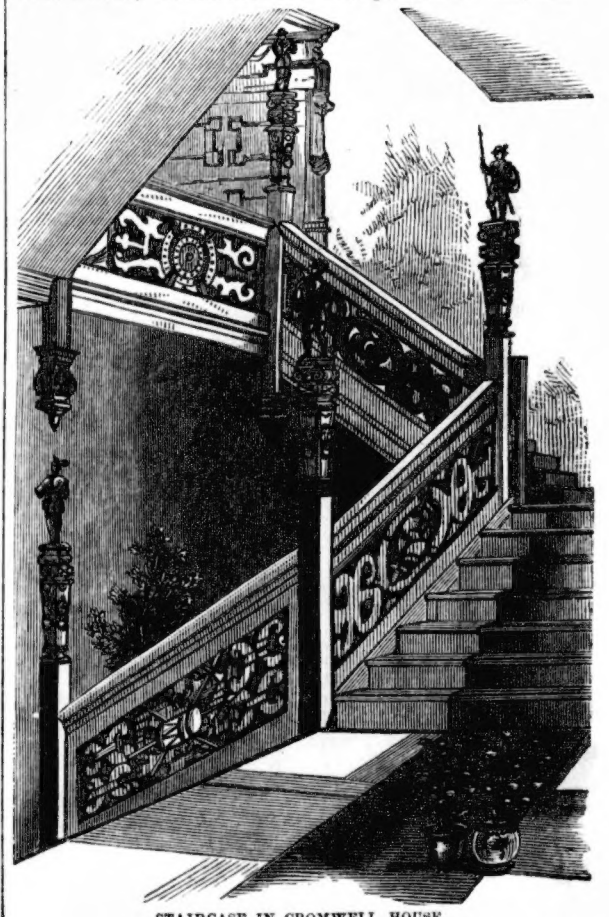
That in no case shall the members of this association press an operative to accept a "discharge-note" on dismissal; but all members before taking on a workman shall ascertain who was his last employer, and if he should be a non-member, then he shall write to him, and ascertain that the man is not on strike. (The operative is not to commence until employer's answer is obtained.) But if the workman has worked for a member of the association he must give up a "discharge-note" before he can obtain work from any other member.

That the Builders' Association, being most anxious that a better understanding should exist between employer and employed, and deprecating the disastrous results attending strikes, strongly recommend to the whole body of operatives that all future disputes in the building trade be settled by arbitration; the arbitration in the first instance to consist of an equal number of masters and men with full power to act, and, if they cannot agree, let each party have the power to name a special arbitrator, and these arbitrators an umpire in the usual way, whose decision shall be final and binding on both parties.

That this association calls upon every builder in England to take up the cause of a national union of masters as a personal duty, and that every town and village throughout the country at once call its meetings, and make itself thoroughly acquainted with the effects of the association and the discharge-note.

CROMWELL HOUSE, HIGHGATE.

THE recent fire at Cromwell House, Highgate, has attracted attention to this famous mansion, of which, and the beautiful staircase, we this week publish Engravings. The fire began in the upper portion of the building, and before it was discovered had obtained a firm hold. The principal portion of the house was destroyed, the roof burned off, and the lower part partially damaged. The building has of late years been occupied as an educational establishment; the schoolroom and back premises are uninjured.



STAIRCASE IN CROMWELL HOUSE.

Cromwell House is supposed to have been built by the great Protector for General Ireton, one of his most favoured officers, and who had married his eldest daughter, Bridget. It is, however, said to have been the residence of Oliver Cromwell himself, though no mention is made, either in history or his biography, of his ever having lived at Highgate. Another tradition connects it with the name of Oliver's eldest son, Richard, who succeeded him in the position of Protector, an office for which he was little fitted, either by talents or inclination. Richard's occupancy of the mansion is, however, very doubtful. But whoever was the first tenant of Cromwell House, it certainly was internally ornamented in accordance with the taste of a military man. The staircase, which is of handsome proportions,

was richly decorated with oaken carved figures, supposed to have been of actual members of the General's army, in their costume; and the balustrades fitted in with devices emblematical of warfare. On the ceiling of the drawing-room were the arms of General Ireton, which seems to indicate that that officer was concerned in the construction of the building; or at all events, either at first or afterwards, was permitted to place his armorial bearings there. The ceilings of this and of the other principal apartments were enriched in conformity with the fashion of those days. The proportions of the noble rooms, as well as the brickwork in front, which, till the recent fire, were all in excellent preservation, well deserved the notice and study of architects. From a platform on the top of the mansion a perfect panoramic view of the surrounding country could be obtained.

The staircase above mentioned is shown in our smaller Engraving. It is a remarkably striking and elegant specimen of internal decoration, of broad and noble proportions, and of solid and grand construction. The woodwork of the house was everywhere bold and massive, and the doorways of simple but good design. Some ceilings in the first story were very rich in plaster-work, the arms of Ireton being again repeated, along with mouldings of fruit and flowers.

Out of a series of twelve figures which stood upon the newels of the staircase only ten remained; the missing two were supposed to have been those of Cromwell and Ireton, which were destroyed at the Restoration. These figures were about 1 ft. in height, and represented soldiers of different grades in the army, from the fifer and drummer up to the captain, and, as is believed, originally to the commanders themselves. These figures were curious for many reasons: their beauty, their truthfulness, their history, and the picture they helped to realise of the followers of the great Protector, were all so many claims to attention.

DONATO.

A DANCER with only one leg! There's a novelty for sensation-loving theatre-goers!

Many people were sceptical about the powers of M. Donato when the announcement was first made of his approaching appearance on the London boards, heralded as it was by glowing panegyrics upon his performances. Not that dancing on one leg was a new thing, for we have long been accustomed to see both male and female Terpsichoreans pirouetting

on the toes of one foot; but *with* but one leg was a decided novelty. A law-suit of which he was the subject—two rival houses having engaged him, and the one seeking to prevent the other from enjoying his services—gave M. Donato a still greater degree of notoriety; but, independent of all meretricious influences, this one-legged dancer fully justifies the interest his appearance ex-

is not yet settled, but, meanwhile, Donato continues to perform at Covent Garden. M. Donato, we believe, is a Spaniard, and lost his right leg during the campaign in Morocco; but misfortunes are sometimes blessings in disguise, and certainly what would have been a serious deprivation to most men seems likely to prove the source of both fame and fortune to M. Donato.



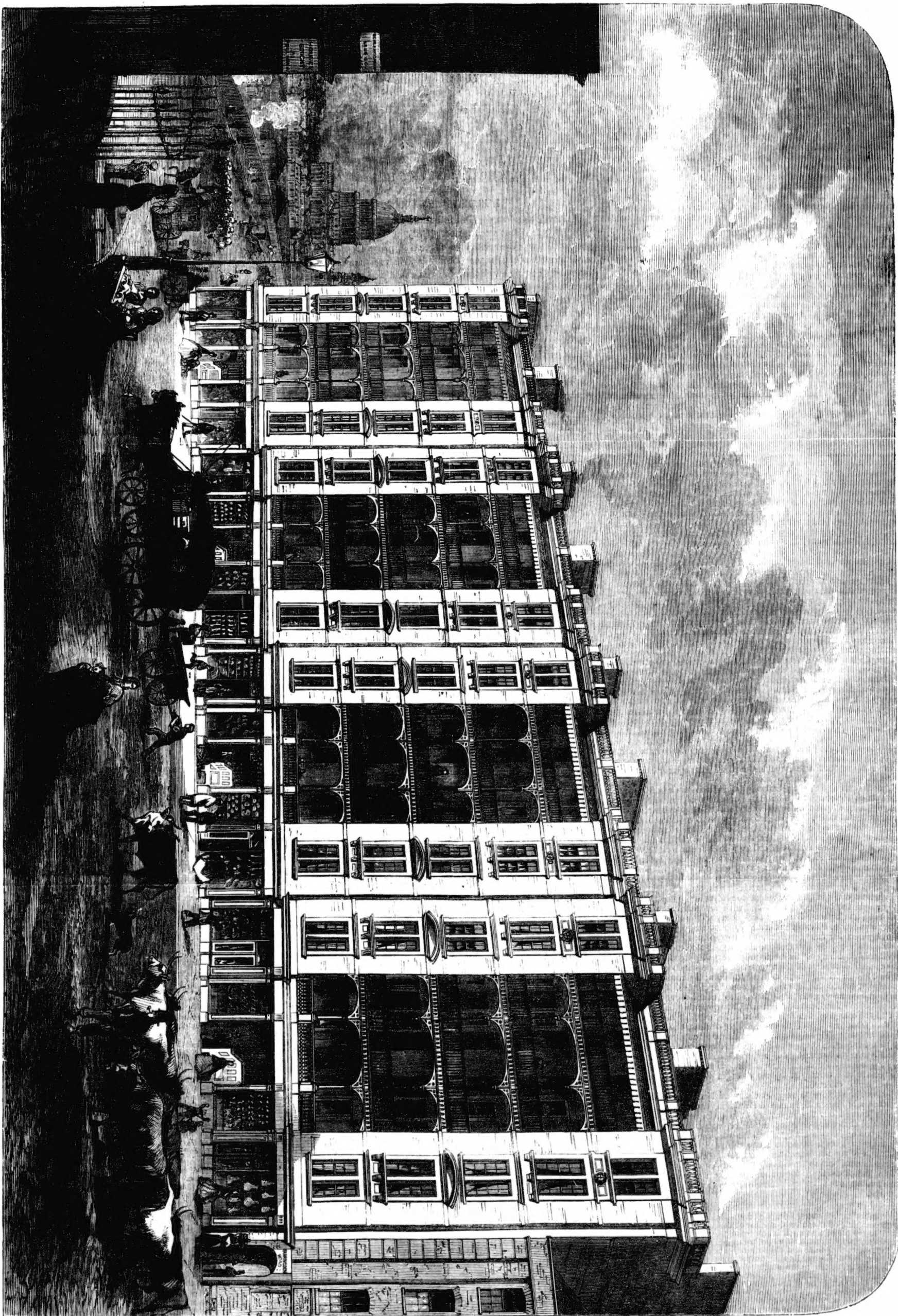
THE CELEBRATED ONE-LEGGED DANCER, DONATO.

cited by the extraordinary character of his performances, which are nightly delighting the audiences at Covent-garden Theatre. Whatever uncomfortable impression may be attached to the notion of a man performing feats of Terpsichorean agility with only one leg to sustain and serve him is dispelled almost as soon as Senor Donato has hopped up to the footlights. In the twinkling of a foot he won the sympathy of the whole house the first night that he appeared before a London audience, and the applause that greeted his performance, as wonder after wonder gave it increased and increasing interest, became at last quite uproarious. The most entirely satisfactory exhibition is that during which a shawl is brought into play; nothing can be more skilful and easy than his manipulation of this graceful adjunct, which occasionally is so handled that it hides the want of that the loss of which, in Senor Donato's case, can hardly be regarded as a misfortune. The endurance of the man is as singular as his vigour and address. He dances, never flagging, for little short of ten minutes, and finishes with a series of rapid evolutions, enough, under the circumstances, to make the beholder giddy. And then, to crown all, Senor Donato accompanies himself on the castanets to absolute perfection. Other one-legged dancers perform nightly at neighbouring houses, for this sort of thing has become quite the rage in the metropolis, but Donato excels them all in grace, spirit, and general effectiveness. Attractive as he is, it is not surprising that he has been the cause of fierce legal strife. Application was made to the Vice-Chancellor sitting in chambers, praying that august functionary to restrain Donato from appearing at Covent Garden. It was alleged by the applicants that the dancer, before he listened to the wiles of the operatic manager, had made an agreement with the proprietor of two highly-respectable music-halls; and the cause has engaged the eloquence of learned counsel and the attention of grave Judges, not excepting the Lord Chancellor himself, whose privacy at Hackwood Park has been invaded by the parties to the dispute. The question of right



CROMWELL HOUSE, HIGHGATE.

THE NEW CITY DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES, FARRINGTON ROAD.



IMPROVED DWELLINGS FOR THE LABOURING CLASSES, FARRINGTON-ROAD.

FOLLOWING the admirable example of Miss Burdett Coutts, and placing judicious trust in the philanthropic experiences of Mr. Alderman Waterlow, the Common Council of the city of London has opened both hands in order to supply the necessary funds for completing a stupendous block (or rather three stupendous blocks) of building as dwellings for the labouring classes.

As long ago as October, 1851, it was directed that the surplus fund of the Finsbury estate—a sum of £42,469—should be applied to the purpose of providing improved lodging-houses for the labouring classes, in order to meet, in some measure, the destruction of large numbers of poor dwellings by the railways and various schemes for metropolitan improvement.

The land which was purchased in Victoria-street for this purpose, however, was ultimately sold for the Metropolitan Railway, and when a sufficient amount was again realised it was deemed advisable to erect the new buildings on ground belonging to the Corporation, at the upper end of Victoria-street, now known as Farrington-road.

The original estimate for eight blocks of building, to accommodate 160 families, was £20,000; but as the Common Council were determined that the accommodation should be of a superior description, and that even the building itself should not be wanting in such ornament as would be consistent with its purpose, the contract has reached the large sum of £37,043, for which there will be provided eighty-four sets of three rooms each and eighty-four sets of two rooms each, making in all 168 dwellings: while twelve handsome shops will occupy a large proportion of the basement.

It is difficult at present to realise what will be the external appearance of these immense structures, which consist of three main blocks inclosing a triangular area, and each block looking upon a separate street, the principal, of course, being that which fronts the Farrington-road.

The neighbourhood in which these buildings are erected may be said to be one of the most dreary in all London; but this arises from the fact that it is in a transition state. Starting from the foot of Holborn-hill, and looking along that wild waste of muddy inclosure, with its ragged ends of decaying tenements jostling with bare, huge piles of brick and mortar, placed at all sorts of angles, the mind refuses to realise that it can ever be brought to any appearance of symmetry. There is about the whole district an appearance of hopeless confusion common to most places where metropolitan improvements are said to have made a "clean sweep," or where, in other words, a proportion of foul courts and alleys having been removed, those which remain seem to be making an ineffectual attempt to huddle away beneath railway arches, under the lee of blank walls, or behind the half-finished structures by which they have been partially concealed.

No relief is afforded to the air of helpless and hopeless incompetency which characterises Victoria-street by the new station of the Underground Railway. A building far more depressing than the Colosseum, even in its worst days, and the great, bare, muddy areas of waste ground which lie on each side of the roadway, are amongst the most distressing spectacles in the metropolis.

Some description of the worst of these has already appeared in these columns, along with a brief notice of the shabby, slouching, furtive individuals who, having been banished from the corner of Bride-court and the pavement in front of the offices of sporting newspapers, meet there to stake their money on each forthcoming race. There is now some hope that these conditions will at least be mitigated, and that the completion of the new buildings will inaugurate an improvement which will rapidly include the entire district.

These remarks are scarcely out of place, since the facts to which they refer will be amongst the first that will influence a visitor to the model lodgings, and, as these also are incomplete, the momentary impression will be one of disappointment at the sordid surroundings, which fail at present to alleviate the sense of blank immensity which is inseparable from such enormous piles of building.

The most striking peculiarity of these buildings, and one which is a striking example of architectural skill, is that the staircases, or, rather, flights of steps leading from the basement, are entered at once from the street, and are constructed, as it were, in the solid wall, like those of a cathedral turret, except that they are well lighted and easy of ascent. By these means they are made to occupy but a small space, and by the easy turn which occurs in each flight the number of stairs is very materially diminished, so that even to reach the uppermost or sixth story, does not entail a very great degree of exertion. These flights of steps lead to broad, open balconies, which may be said to represent the streets in which the dwellings are situated, since from them extend light, clean, stone passages, on each side of which are the doors, numbered, provided with knockers, and in all respects like street-doors, leading to each suite of rooms.

This is a most pleasant peculiarity, as it removes one of the most common objections to some buildings of this kind, where the long, dim galleries, studded on each side with ordinary doors, and with bare, whitened walls, look painfully like a combination of the union with the barrack style of architecture. Each suite of rooms is entered from a small fireproof lobby, in some cases containing a linen-closet, on one side near the ceiling; and the rooms themselves vary somewhat in size and very considerably in shape, according to the particular part of the building they occupy. The walls will be neatly papered, and the upper portions of the windows will open in the manner of French windows. The bed-rooms contain either closets and shelves or linen-presses, where the latter are not placed in the lobby; and the living-room is fitted with a small compact range, with oven and boiler. Both the two-room and the three-room suites have, in addition, an excellent scullery, containing a portable copper, a stove fitted for heating irons, a dust-trap for carrying the ashes down a shaft to the basement, a sink, a coal-closet, and all proper conveniences. Many of the rooms are remarkably light and cheerful, from the circumstance of their possessing side windows looking on the balconies, and the roof, which is flat, and walled round with a sort of rampart, is intended as a drying-ground for clothes. The balconies will doubtless be so guarded by rails as to render them safe for the children of the families residing there; and probably the triangular area in the centre of the buildings will be used as a playground. Looking from the top of these immense edifices, the surrounding streets look strangely mean and insignificant; but there will doubtless be a favourable change in this respect, and the dwellings will offer advantages to numbers of respectable mechanics who work in the neighbourhood, and whose former lodgings (of a greatly inferior order) have been destroyed by the changes which have been, and are still being, effected.

We would venture to suggest that—as Mr. Horace Jones, the architect, and Messrs. Browne and Robinson, the contractors, have so ably carried out the intentions of the Corporation, and as it is intended that these dwellings shall be, not a charitable undertaking, but an investment by which the working man may benefit—they may be known by some name which will convey a genuine impression of such an intention. To insist on calling them "model lodging-houses," or even "working-men's dwellings," would perhaps be less judicious than to confer upon them some definite local denomination, such as "Farrington," "Victoria," or "City" buildings.

MINISTERS IN CONGRESS.—By the Constitution of the American States, no person holding office can be a member of Congress. The rule has been found so inconvenient that a bill is now in progress, and has passed through Committee, providing that the heads of the executive departments, and with them the Secretary of State and the Attorney-General, shall be entitled to occupy seats in the House of Representatives, and participate in debate upon matters relating to the business of their respective departments; and, further, that it shall be their duty to attend every Monday and Thursday, immediately on the opening of the sitting, in order to give information in reply to questions of which notice may have been given. One reason in favour of the bill stated by the Committee to which it was referred is this:—"That the influence of the executive department upon legislation, whatever it may be, should be open, declared, and authorised; or other than secret, concealed, and unauthorised."

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A VIEW OF HOLKHAM HALL, NORFOLK.

will appear in the ILLUSTRATED TIMES of the 21st of January.



BUILDERS' STRIKES.

DISPUTES and strikes in the building trade are becoming of painfully frequent occurrence. Only a few years ago the metropolis was the scene of a fierce and protracted struggle; several strikes have since taken place in various parts of the provinces; and now the whole of the midland counties are in a turmoil over another "dispute in the building trade." Usually, these strikes have been produced by demands on the part of the operatives for increase of wages, or, what is practically the same thing, for reduction of the hours of labour. On the present occasion, however, the initiative has been taken by the employers, in, we think, a not very wise manner. The combinations and encroachments of the operatives have led to the formation of a counter association on the part of the employers, the head-quarters of which is at Birmingham, and the executive of which lately issued a notice that in future all workmen on quitting an employer should receive a "discharge-note," stating the cause of his leaving, which discharge-note was to be presented on the holder applying for work elsewhere. The purpose of this step was, of course, to enable employers to know whether an applicant for work had been engaged in a strike, when, if he had, he was to be rejected wherever he presented himself.

This system of discharge-notes seems to us at once foolish and unjust. It is foolish, in the first place, because masters cannot compel men quitting their employment to accept a discharge-note, and, in the second place, because circumstances may exist where they could not compel its production. Where there happens to be a scarcity of hands—where work is more plentiful than workers—masters would be glad to accept the services of such men as presented themselves without inquiring too curiously into their antecedents, all rules to the contrary notwithstanding. The rule as to the production of a "discharge-note" before being employed would thus become a dead letter; and we know what happens to a law that is violated even by its own framers. That such circumstances as we have supposed are not only likely to exist in the building trade, but that they actually do exist, is proved by the facts that aggressions of late years have generally come from the operatives, and that the masters, according to their own showing, have been compelled to resort to combination, discharge-notes, and other measures, in self-defence. There must be a paucity of hands in the building trades relatively to the quantity of work to be done, or the men would have no chance whatever of enforcing their demands, and therefore could not persist in making them. In point of fact, the building trade has been in a flourishing condition for years past, and is still improving. Very extensive works are being executed, huge capitals are invested in the business, large profits are made, and improved taste and more perfect execution are rendering a higher degree of skill in the workman necessary. Of all these facts the operatives are aware; and consequently claim, and are entitled to obtain, a fair share of the benefits enjoyed by their special branch of industry. So long as this state of things continues, employers will be unable to prevent their workmen participating in the advantages the trade is reaping; and to attempt to do so by any contrivance whatever is therefore both futile and unwise. We should have expected the employers to understand this, and to have refrained from adopting the stupid devices which ignorant operatives, and their still more ignorant leaders, have already used, and always found to fail them when the state of the labour market was unfavourable.

But this system of "discharge-notes" is also unjust, because liable to be misused. Workmen, either individually or in bodies, may have excellent reasons for quitting a particular employer without there being anything in their conduct to render them obnoxious to other masters, or to justify their being placed under ban; and a spiteful employer or overseer might easily twist simple facts so as to give them an ugly look, and so perpetrate a grievous injustice on decent and peaceable men who happened to object to something which they deemed detrimental to their interests. There are in all trades bad masters as well as bad and troublesome workmen; and each is entitled to get rid of the other, and to resist what they deem injustice, without having a brand put upon them, so long as they do not interfere with the like freedom in others. The proposal to enforce a system of "discharge-notes" is, in our opinion, an attempt to crush freedom of action and to deter men from doing that which they have a perfect right to do—namely, to leave an employer whose terms do not suit them, and to carry their labour elsewhere. The system is thus liable to be abused, great injustice may be perpetrated under its sanction,

and it ought, therefore, to be abandoned. Would employers think it fair that their establishments should be put under ban because they discharged workmen who either would not or could not work according to orders? If they would not, let them not practise a like injustice upon their men.

At the same time we have little sympathy with the outcry raised by the operatives against the "discharge-note" system. They have practised the same thing themselves, and have little right to complain when their own weapons are turned against them. What is good sauce for the goose cannot be bad sauce for the gander. Workmen, too, have their system of "discharge-notes." Trades unions are in the practice of giving their members cards when they travel from one place to another in search of employment; and, if a man cannot produce such a card, he is "tabooed" by his fellows and often refused the right to earn his bread by the labour of his hands. If an employer offend a trades union—for whatever reason—his establishment is proclaimed, and he is, as far as unionists have the power, debarred from carrying on his business in his own way. If a workman decline to conform to the rules laid down by unionists, he is denounced through the length and breadth of the land; he is struck against, he is vilified, he is persecuted; he was—and, in some places, he is still—in danger of personal violence. All these things are wrong, and cannot possibly be of advantage to those who practise them; and till operatives cease to perpetrate such unfair and foolish actions, they must be content to have the tables turned upon them occasionally, and must not complain if they are "hoist with their petard." The operative builders are not without blame in this respect, and must endure the retribution of "discharge-notes" and what not, though these measures may be ineffectual for accomplishing the objects the masters have in view.

A little study of the principles of political economy, and attention to the laws which govern supply and demand, would save both masters and men from entanglement in a maze of absurdity. Combinations and obstructions cannot either make labour cheaper or dearer, though they may be the cause of capital quitting a particular industry or district, and so do a serious damage to both parties. If masters would carefully observe the state of the labour market, and advance wages when work is plentiful and hands scarce, they would best subserve their own interests, and have the advantage when matters were in a different condition. And if operatives would spend the funds they waste on strikes in relieving the market when overstocked with hands by promoting emigration, co-operation, and otherwise, they would do infinitely more good to themselves than they can ever accomplish by unions and strikes, and the public would hear less of "disputes" in the building or any other trade.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES will honour Lord and Lady Walsingham with a visit at Merton Hall, Norfolk, during the present month. GARIBALDI is expected to visit Liverpool in the course of the ensuing spring.

THE QUEEN OF PRUSSIA, with a view to the introduction into the Prussian army of the reforms carried out by Miss Nightingale in the British military hospitals, has requested Dr. Gilen, one of the chief army surgeons, to prepare a report on the state of female attendance on the sick and wounded in the field hospitals of the Prussian army.

MR. ELIHU BURRITT has been appointed United States Consul at Birmingham.

THE ARCHDEACONRY OF WESTMINSTER, rendered vacant by the resignation of the Venerable Dr. Bentinck, has been conferred upon the Rev. Dr. Christopher Wordsworth.

THE MARRIAGE BETWEEN VISCOUNT SUDELEY, eldest son of the Countess of Arran, and the Hon. Edith Jocelyn, second daughter of Viscountess Jocelyn, will take place next month.

PREPARATIONS are being made to restore the splendid old Norman tower of St. Clement's Church, in Sandwich, built in the reign of King Stephen.

A "RELIGIOUS THEATRE" is about to be established in Paris, in which nothing but pieces taken from the Old Testament will be performed.

THE DIRECTORS OF THE LONDON AND WESTMINSTER BANK have just presented to each of their clerks a bonus of 10 per cent, and a gratuity of 5 per cent, on their salaries.

THE SHIP DACOTA, arrived at Liverpool a few days ago, with 4000 bales of blockade-run cotton, which, at present prices, are worth £280,000.

CAPTAIN WILSON and the party of English engineers who are now making a survey of Jerusalem have discovered an arch of the Temple causeway mentioned by Josephus.

A FUNERAL PROCESSION was snowballed on the 1st inst. by a gang of young ruffians near Chacewater.

THE ALEXANDRA—now called the Mary—which was the subject of lengthened legal proceedings in this country, has been seized by the British authorities at Nassau for an alleged infringement of the Foreign Enlistment Act.

CAPTAIN COWPER COLES'S new cupola-ship will not be built on the lines of the Pallas, and will resemble her only in tonnage. He has been furnished with drawings of the Pallas lines, but does not propose to use them.

FOUR BOYS have been fined £5 each, with the alternative of two months' imprisonment and hard labour, for digging with sticks at a rabbit-hole near Blandford.

AN OLD LADY, who had insisted on her minister praying for rain, had her cabbage cut up by a hailstorm, and, on viewing the wreck, remarked that she "never knew him undertake anything without overdoing the matter."

A NUMBER OF MECHANICS AND LABOURERS were discharged during last week from the factory department in Woolwich Dockyard, and others are announced to follow shortly, owing to a reduction ordered by the Board of Admiralty to meet the estimated allowance.

THE SOUTH KENSINGTON MUSEUM has become possessed, at the cost of £750, of a very fine specimen of Henri Deux ware, in the shape of a small earthenware candlestick. Ceramic ware is looking up.

A LADY who visited the "contraband camp" at Norfolk, America, recently, was astonished to find the name of every boy baby in the camp to be uniformly "Abraham." In one group were no less than nine children all honoured with the same appellation.

THE POPE is said to have the intention of sending the hat and sword, blessed each year, as is the custom, before the Christmas mass, to the Emperor of Mexico. His Holiness is also likely to present the Empress Charlotte with a golden rose in February.

A NEGRO SOLDIER in the Federal army was met returning from the front during an engagement, and on being asked if he was hurt, replied, "Oh lor, massa, yes! Cannon-ball struck this 'ere nigger right on de brest, and rolled me over, killing Jim at de oder side."

AN ADMIRALTY ORDER has been issued by command of her Majesty directing that all ships of war passing Osborne on their way to Spithead, during the Queen's stay at her marine residence in the Isle of Wight, shall in future fire the usual salutes, which since the death of his Royal Highness the Prince Consort have been discontinued.

A PITMAN, who had not been in Newcastle for a year or two, was lately standing near the northern entrance to the High-level Bridge, when off went the time-gun, and back fell our hero in a fright. "What's that?" he exclaimed, on recovering from the roar. "Oh," was the quiet answer, "it's only the gun striking one." "Maw sang!" said he, "but aw wadn't like to be here when it's striking twelve!"

THE CULTIVATION OF COTTON in Sicily this year will be very extensive; the soil being particularly well suited to it.

THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT has officially announced its adhesion to the principles of the International Sanitary Association, founded at Geneva, for the better care of the sick and wounded in time of war.

ALL THE POSTHUMOUS PAPERS, with the exception of the memoirs, of Heinrich Heine have just been bought for the Austrian Government. Prince Metternich, the Austrian Ambassador at Paris, concluded the purchase of these important literary remains from the poet's widow, who is residing in the French capital. The widow Heine is to receive an annuity of 3000*fr.* for life as the price of her husband's papers.

THE SHOREHAM MASTER MARINERS' MUTUAL BENEVOLENT SOCIETY has sent a donation of £5 to the Royal National Life-boat Institution, accompanied with the following resolution:—"Resolved unanimously,—That a contribution of £5 be sent to the National Life-boat Institution as a donation from this society, and with the earnest wish of the members that the noble efforts of the Life-boat Institution may always be crowned with success." The Rev. R. J. Craig has also forwarded to the institution a New-Year's offering of £3 10*s.* from Mochrum parish, Wigtownshire, N.B.

SHIPPING THE ATLANTIC CABLE and preparing the Great Eastern for sea will, it is expected, occupy about five months from the present time. Under present arrangements, she will not take her departure from the Medway until June next, so as to have the best period of the year before her for her important undertaking.

THREE MEN from the ship Burnside, of Greenock, were picked up at sea by the steamer City of Dublin, in her last trip to New York, after they had been six days and nights with no other food than biscuit steeped in salt water, no other clothes than sailcloth wrapped round them, and no other shelter than the exposed deck of the ship.

THE WIFE OF A NAVY was sent to the Winchester Hospital in a very bad state of health, but after she had been stripped she was, on the recommendation of two gentlemen—one of them a clergyman—re-clothed in her own garments and sent away in a cart on the plea that she was too dirty to remain. She was received into the workhouse, where she immediately died.

THE LAST SURVIVING SON of the famous Ali Pacha of Janina has just died at Scutari. Since the tragic end of his father he had been receiving a pension from the Porte, which, with a small estate he possessed, would have enabled him to live at his ease; but, from avarice, he deprived himself of common necessities, was clothed in rags, and walked barefooted. He died miserably in a house falling to ruins.

THE FIRST VOLUME of the Emperor Napoleon's "Life of Caesar" will be published on the 10th of February. It will appear simultaneously in French and German, into which latter language it has been translated by M. Fröhner, conservateur at the Library of the Louvre. Numbers of foreign editors have come to Paris to try and obtain leave to reproduce the work. The first volume is devoted to the geographic and archaeological description of Caesar's campaign in Gaul.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THE Duke of Buccleuch has lately built himself a noble palace in Whitehall-gardens, on the bank of the Thames; but his Grace seems to be in no hurry to furnish his residence. It is rumoured, indeed, that he will never live there. He is disgusted with that Thames Embankment scheme. He would have tolerated the noise of the traffic in Whitehall; but another road running right before his drawing-room windows is more than he can make up his mind to endure. True, the ugly stench-emitting foreshore will be removed, and true that the road will be a long way off, at a distance of at least a hundred yards or more from the house; but the cabs, and omnibuses, and carts will be seen from his windows, and the noise thereof will, he fancies, invade his privacy. And, besides all this, the vulgar world is closing in upon him on other sides. Whitehall-gardens, for example, which were till lately the most aristocratic of retreats, have become vulgarised by commerce. The stately mansion of Sir Robert Peel is there, and next to that there is a noble house which only a few months ago was occupied by the Viscountess of Falmouth; but last summer the Countess died, and now, *horresco referens*, the house is broken up into apartments, and the spacious drawing-room is turned into a solicitor's office. Now, all this is very mortifying; but there is no help for it. It is only a specimen of what is everywhere going on in town and country. In the country the new aristocracy is buying out the old families; and in town commerce is invading and flooding the most sacred districts. How can mere country gentlemen stand against cotton lords who will give a hundred pounds an acre and more for land; or against lawyers and Parliamentary agents and merchants, who will offer a hundred pounds a year for a single room? All the houses in Whitehall-gardens will probably at no distant day be offices, and the palace of the great duke be let out in chambers.

The proclamation is out, and Parliament will "assemble and be holden for the dispatch of divers urgent and important affairs" on Tuesday, the 7th of February. All this the proclamation tells us; but, nevertheless and notwithstanding, on Friday (this week) the stupid, empty ceremonial of prorogation will be performed. And why? No one can tell. Everybody says that the ceremony is absurd, and useless, and inconvenient, and ought to be abolished; but, year after year, though dead and useless, it is still kept up. It is said that some of the officials have handsome fees for their attendance; but I cannot learn that this is so. The officers of the Lords and Commons certainly get nothing; and it is hardly likely that fees are paid to the Royal Commissioners. I suspect that this useless ceremonial is continued simply because nobody thinks it worth while to move that it be abolished. But it will not last many years longer, I think. Some day, Common-sense will turn his bull's-eye upon it, and lift up his club and dispatch the useless thing at a blow.

The announcement of Mr. Speaker that he will again offer his services to the electors of North Nottinghamshire, has puzzled the quidnuncs and gossips not a little. It has been understood for a long time past that he would certainly not be a candidate for the speakership of the next Parliament. Nay, unless I am wrongly informed, he has himself made no secret amongst his friends of his intention to retire. Has he changed his mind? Perhaps he has. It is whispered about that as there is one ex-Speaker now receiving a pension, the Government would not like to propose to allow a pension to Mr. Denison after a service of only nine years. I, however, do not think much of this objection. If Mr. Denison wishes to retire, there will be no difficulty, I apprehend, about the peerage and pension. Government is not so squeamish as the whisperers imagine. There are now no less than four ex-Lord Chancellors—to wit, Lord Brougham, Lord St. Leonards, Lord Cranworth, and Lord Chelmsford, each receiving a pension of £5000 a year; besides two ex-Irish Lord Chancellors—the Right Hon. Joseph Napier, and the Right Hon. Francis Blackburn, each receiving £3692 6*s.* (a curious sum this). I should not be surprised if the Speaker were to retire, notwithstanding his announcement; but about this we shall learn more before the end of the year.

By-the-way, what an enormous amount of money the Lord Chancellors and ex-Lord Chancellors cost us. Our old friend Brougham has received this £5000 a year for thirty years—altogether, therefore, he has taken £150,000 for doing nothing, and, I think, we may say that during these thirty years the country has paid in salaries and pensions to Lord Chancellors at least a million of money, which is over £33,000 a year. A reformed Parliament, I think, would overhaul this business, deprive the Lord Chancellor of his political functions, and let him hold his office on the same terms as other Judges hold theirs—that is, as long as he shall behave himself to the satisfaction of Parliament.

It is a curious fact that there is not a library in London—I doubt whether there is one in the kingdom—where a student can obtain the Parliamentary papers, unless said student be a member of the House of Lords or the House of Commons. In the libraries of the two Houses of Parliament every Parliamentary paper may be found readily, but nowhere else. These papers are deposited, I know, in the British Museum; but if any man thinks that he can go there and consult them, all I have to say is—let him try. The simple fact is, that unless you go to Hansard's and purchase the paper you want, you cannot see it. This is a great shame. These papers, as they are paid for out of the taxes, ought to be accessible to the poorest of her Majesty's subjects without further cost; but they are accessible to nobody but members of Parliament and Government officials. Well, this being so, I look upon every one who will take the trouble to search into these papers and give me their con-

texts in a compendious form as a real friend, deserving my thanks; and I beg cordially to thank Mr. Martin for his *Statesman's Manual* and his *London Almanack*. The *Statesman's Year-Book* I noticed last year when it appeared, and praised it. Since then I have constantly had to refer to it, and I have now no hesitation in saying that it is one of the most useful books that I possess. It is but just that we scribblers should acknowledge the services of those who render efficient help to us. The *London Almanack* has yet to be examined, but I can see that it bristles with useful statistics. There is, moreover, at the end a graphic history of the house of Rothschild, which appeared first in the *Railway News*. I may note, also, a tabular account of the commerce of the twelve principal ports of the United Kingdom, called by the author "twelve gates," which account shows us that London has still more than double the number of ships that Liverpool possesses; and that whilst, in 1863, Liverpool trade inwards amounted to 2,658,519 tons, London reckoned 3,411,519 tons. In exports, Liverpool is slightly in excess of London.

Mr. Ayrton's account of his stewardship comes late; but he has spoken out bravely, and has announced that Gladstone is the coming man. "Mr. Gladstone," he says, "is the only light and hope of the Liberal party." Well, it may be so. I also think that it is so; but it is curious that Mr. Ayrton should utter this prophecy, for Mr. Gladstone's measures have been criticised more severely and persistently by Mr. Ayrton than by any other man. The *Saturday Review*, the other day, laboured hard to show that the Chancellor of the Exchequer cannot be Prime Minister, nor even lead the House of Commons; and there was much truth in the allegation of the *Saturday Review*. I doubt whether the Whigs would willingly submit to the lead of Mr. Gladstone, and I doubt, further, whether he would prove a good leader. He is eloquent, as we all know. He is quick and clever at reply, and his knowledge is simply boundless; but, as an old whip said lately, he wants prudence. "Confound him!" said the same gentleman n, "he has often endangered the division, and more than once lost it by his untractability. Johnny I could always manage, and so I could Palmerston; they would talk when I wanted them, to enable me to get up my men, and, when I gave the sign that we were ready to divide, they would cut short their speeches at once; but Gladstone would always have his swing, if he lost the division. Now, what the duce is the use of talking when we have a majority in the House? When we are ready to divide, that a Minister of the Crown should keep on talking is madness." This is Gladstone from the whip's point of view, and it jumps with the general opinion in the House, that the Chancellor of the Exchequer, with all his splendid talents and acquirements, lacks the prudence and tact so necessary for the leader of a great party. But that he will be leader, if the Liberals should keep the Government, I have no doubt, for the simple reason that, now Sir George Lewis is gone, there is no one else to whom Gladstone can be expected to play second.

Mr. Fawcett's prospects at Brighton are very promising. At the last registration 800 Liberals were added to the constituency; and, unless some foolish Marplot should spoil the game, Mr. White and Mr. Fawcett will certainly be returned. It is, I learn, questionable whether Mr. Moore, the Conservative, will try again. His health is not good; and, further, it is not pleasant to fight a losing game. Blind though he is, Mr. Fawcett ought to be in the House. No man has more sedulously studied political questions, and no man is more competent to understand them. In 1833 the registered electors numbered 1649; in 1852, 3675; and now there are 6500.

On Saturday last I went to the first conversazione of the season at the Artists' Club, at Langham Chambers, and enjoyed it very much. Artists as a body are very pleasant men. Don't you remember how Thackeray delighted in them? Some choice bits in "Philip" owed their charm to the gusto with which he wrote of scenes in the art-world. The chief part of the pictures exhibited on Saturday I expect to meet again at the British Institution. If that exhibition will for once break through its rule—accept the good and reject the bad pictures, instead of vice versa—we shall have a very capital show there. I won't attempt to give a list of the pictures, but I may mention the names of the artists—Beavis, Rossiter, Fitzgerald, Cattermole, Green, Hayler, and Watson were in full force, and Hayes and Mogford were at sea, but quite at home there. The portfolios were as worthy of attention as the show on the walls and easels. Sketches by Pidgeon, Prout, and Hayes contained in them were especially good; and there was a collection of fruit and leaf studies by Miss Coleman that made one feel that Hunt's loss was not quite irreparable. The evening passed very pleasantly, with plenty of art-gossip, and not without melody. I may, perhaps, be allowed to add, too, that several eminent tragedians and comedians were, in their absence, present "by the kind permission of Mr. Toole" and others. I have had a general invitation to the Friday evening Sketching Club, of which I shall avail myself at an early opportunity, and shall not fail to do my best to describe the doings there. As you probably know, on these evenings a subject—often a single word only—is given out for illustration, and each artist has to sketch a picture on it within a given time.

What a barbarous people are the Russians! How inferior in liberality, sentiment, and high feeling to ourselves! In Paris at this present moment there is a poor, benighted Russian lady, a Princess by rank though not by title, who absolutely thinks it no disgrace to marry a distinguished *littérateur*. M. Alexandre Dumas the younger, author of numerous popular works, has just led to the hymeneal altar Mme. Nariseckine, a widow, as I have said, of the most illustrious genealogy. This is social miscegenation with a vengeance. Imagine the daughter of an English duke giving noble guardsmen the go-by and showing a cold, polished marble shoulder to the Peerage generally, and then uniting herself, say, to Mr. Thomas Hughes or Mr. Anthony Trollope! What would the most noble the Marchioness Grundy say? Mme. Nariseckine is nearly as old as her bridegroom, who has, I believe, attained his thirty-sixth year; and Mme. Dumas *filis* (?) has a daughter by her previous marriage. Of this the Parisians think but little. Many widows have daughters, and many daughters have husbands. It is not uncommon. But Mme. Nariseckine has a head of hair which is described in a Paris journal as being of that "beautiful colour which the Venetians and the Romans loved so well, and which modern belles endeavour to simulate." Mlle. Nariseckine is equally endowed by nature as her mamma. Her hair is of the same warm, sunny hue. It is not true that Mme. Nariseckine wrote in the *Constitutionnel* under the name of Henri Desroches. Was it likely that Alexandre, the eminent feminine psychologist, would love or marry an authoress? No. Alexandre knew better!

THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

A new serio-comic drama in one act called "Lawrence's Love Suit" was produced on Monday at the STRAND. It is from the pen of Mr. J. P. Wooler, and was, I believe, successful. I have not seen it myself, so cannot report of it personally. Next week I hope to give a full, true, and particular account of it.

The famous James Wallack recently died in New York, in the seventy-third year of his age. His most important creations were Massaroni, in Mr. Planche's drama of "The Brigand,"—his song of "Gentle Zitella" is not yet forgotten—and Martin Heywood, in Douglas Jerrold's play of "The Rent Day." In 1842, he again surprised the public in Don Caesar de Bazan. He was essentially an actor of romantic, heroic parts; and, though he played Shakspearean characters, and the high comedy parts in the old comedies, it was as a hero that he earned his greenest laurels. I must tell you an anecdote of him which was told me by a veteran actor of his day. The veteran actor met James Wallack three or four days after the first appearance of Edmund Kean in London:—"Well, Jim," said the friend, "what do you think of the new tragedian?" "Why, Fred, I think him an extraordinary actor," answered Wallack. "It is the most wonderful thing I ever saw in my life. I don't think he'll do. He's too good for the public. You'd better come and see him."

THE LORD CHANCELLOR AND THE BANKRUPTCY LAWS.

AT the annual meeting of the Nottingham Chamber of Commerce on Monday, Mr. C. Paget, M.P., stated that a short time ago he transmitted to the Lord Chancellor a resolution adopted by the Merchant Traders' Association thanking him for his efforts towards purifying the administration of our bankruptcy laws. The following was his Lordship's reply:—

"My dear Mr. Paget,—There has been no efficient superintendence of the administration of the bankruptcy law. It was the object I principally had in view when I desired to have a chief Judge appointed, but which the House of Lords refused. I have endeavoured, but imperfectly, to do the duty myself.

"In doing so, it is most painful to see the amount of dishonesty, neglect, and abandonment of duty which has been brought to light.

"But there is one evil in bankruptcy which I cannot reach. It is this:—As soon as a trader has made a bad debt, and the debtor becomes bankrupt, in nineteen cases out of twenty he reasons thus: 'The first loss is the best. If I look after this bankrupt's estate I shall have much trouble and may incur great expense. I cannot leave my business to attend meetings, and it will not do to employ an attorney. If I did, perhaps I should not get more than an extra shilling in the pound divided. Therefore, let it take care of itself.' And thus every estate is abandoned to attorneys, brokers, auctioneers, and every description of unnecessary official persons, and it is eaten up by their costs and charges. Then come statements like these:—Assets, £2200; costs of solicitors and otherwise in bankruptcy, £1200—more than half the property. Then there is a great outcry, and people say this is the fault of law and of the Lord Chancellor. I could establish a board of official administration which should be bound to collect and distribute every estate at a maximum charge of 10 or 12 per cent; but, were I to propose it I should have the opposition of every solicitor. How is this to be met? Will you talk to your friends on the best remedy for it; and tell me how I can secure the honest, speedy, and efficient collection and distribution of bankrupts' estates?—Yours very truly,

"Mr. C. Paget."

WESTBURY.

THE NEW RAILWAY SCHEMES FROM CHARING-CROSS TO NORTH LONDON.

AMONGST the new projects for providing railways to every metropolitan district, two new schemes have already been sanctioned, and arrangements are being made to carry them into effect. By one of these it is intended to connect the Hampstead and North London Junction with the Metropolitan Railway, by means of an underground line passing from the former through the heart of St. John's-wood, under the Wellington and Park roads, to Baker-street, at which point it will form a junction with the main Metropolitan line, surveys are actively employed in taking the various levels; and it is understood that, with a view to the rapid progress of the works when once commenced, the ground will be opened, and the construction of the railway be carried out in sections, at various points throughout the line. This railway, which will be for the most part underground, will generally emerge at each station, and is only tunnelled in order to avoid the enormous expense which would attend the purchase of property along the entire route of the proposed line. The second project is of a bolder engineering character, and our Engraving will show that a very decided course has been adopted in order to avoid the necessity of removing and relaying all the obstructions which would present themselves to a line at a less depth from the surface. Far below the water and gas pipes; below the Pneumatic tubes now in process of completion; below the Metropolitan tunnel; and even below the main sewer, it is intended to run a line which will commence at a point in the Hampstead-road, pass under the centre of the Chalk-farm-road, under the Regent's Canal, and along High-street, Camden Town, under the North-Western and Metropolitan Railway, along Tottenham-court-road, to Oxford-street, thence down St. Martin's-lane under the Strand, without altering the level, and so on to a junction on Hungerford Bridge at the Charing-cross station. The junction with the main line of the London and North-Western will be made near the bridge by which Stanhope-street and Stanhope-place are carried over that railway.

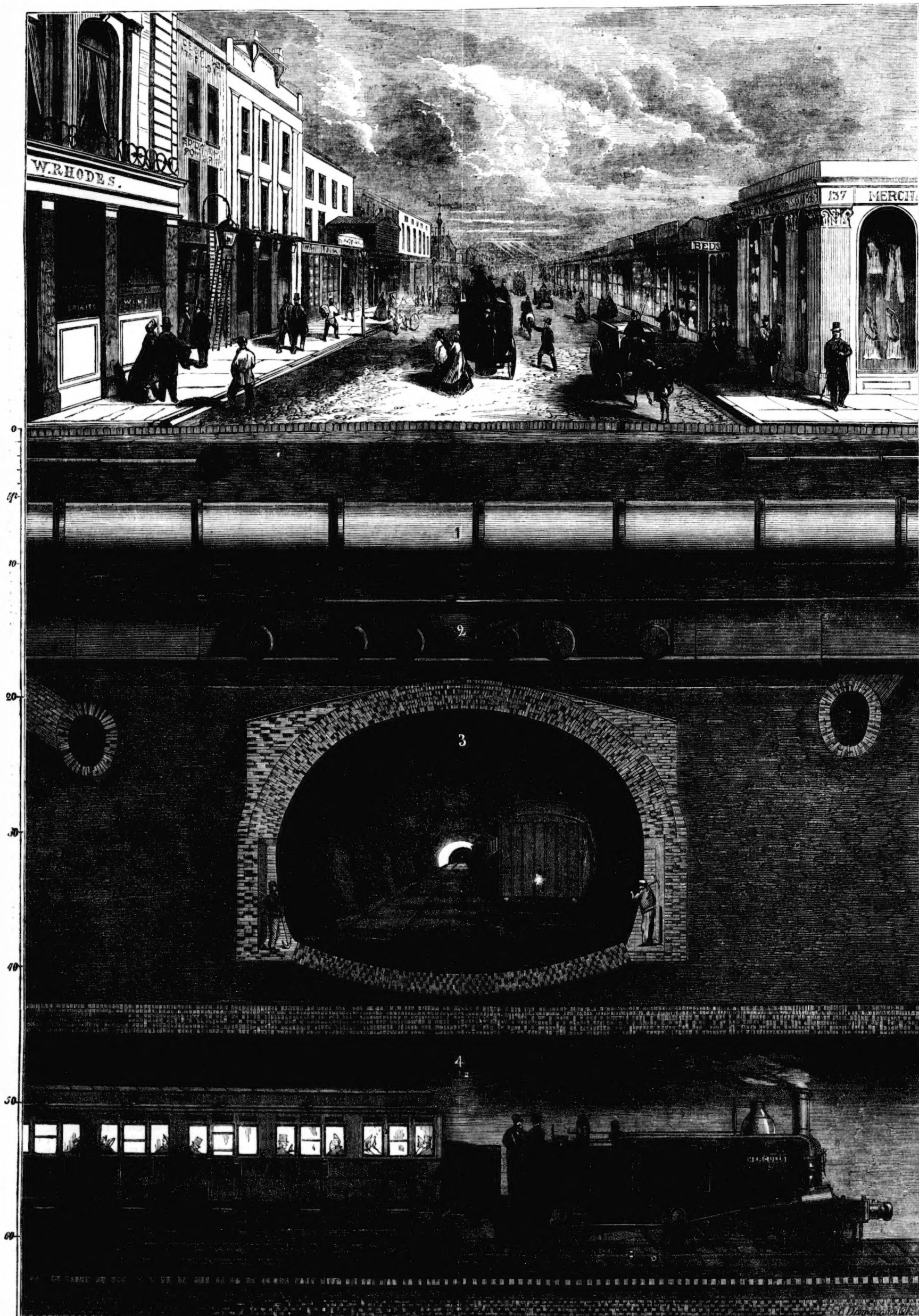
Should this scheme be satisfactorily carried out it will complete that wonderful circle of railway communication which may extend from Brighton to Scotland, for trains may be shunted at the Charing-cross station on to this line, and may afterwards join the line of the London and North-Western, so that passengers from remote places will traverse the very heart of London on their journey.

It may be pretty safely predicted that several places that are now quiet country hamlets just invaded by the railway works will ultimately become centres of locomotion, and that such spots as Harlesden or Willesden, Seven Sisters-road, Greenwich, and Stratford will be the principal outlying termini, each affording a nucleus for the junction of connecting lines of railway. In anticipation of that time the Charing-cross and North London Railway would appear to have been projected; and, although the operations commence at the junction of the Euston and Hampstead roads, it is, we believe, in contemplation to extend the line eventually to the London and North-Western main line. One of the principal features of this scheme, however, is the construction of new and handsome streets above the line in those parts of its route where such improvements are greatly needed; and in the very centre of London a vast change will be effected by this part of the plan being carried out.

Of the three new streets to be made in connection with this railway, the first commences at the junction of Oxford-street and High-street with Tottenham-court-road, and terminates at the junction of Little St. Andrew-street and Tower-street with St. Martin's-lane; the second begins at the junction of Long-acre and Cranbourne-street with St. Martin's-lane and New King-street, and terminates on the north side of Chandos-street; and the third is a short line of street, commencing at the south side of the Strand and passing on to Duke-street, Adelphi. Powers are given by the Act to stop up Duke-street and York-alley, and to appropriate the site between Villiers-street and Buckingham-street for the purpose of the railway. The streets first named are to be of the clear width of 60 ft., and the new Buckingham-street is to be not less than 30 ft. in width.

The new streets are to be completed and paved at the cost of the companies. The Act requires that there shall be a fore-court in front of the station in the Strand equal in depth to that in front of the booking-office and hotel of the South-Eastern Railway at Charing-cross, and powers are given for the purchase of the property in the Strand necessary to provide this clear and open area. There is to be a station at the junction of the Tottenham Court-road and Euston-road, at which all passenger trains, except the express, are to stop to take up and set down passengers. In passing under the Metropolitan, or Underground, Railway, near Tottenham Court-road, the works are to be so carried on as not to interfere with the traffic on that line, nor in any way to alter its level. The plans for the houses of the new streets are to be referred to the approval of the Metropolitan Board of Works. The time fixed for the completion of the railway and works is five years. The company undertakes to run a morning and evening train for working men at fares not exceeding one penny for each journey. The capital of the company is fixed at £900,000, with power to borrow £330,000 more.

It appears that the London and North-Western Company have taken up a large proportion of the capital, on certain conditions, seeing the importance of such a west central terminus for their traffic as Charing-cross. Instead, therefore, of the line extending, as originally intended, from Charing-cross, under Seven Dials, to Tottenham-court-road, and thence by a straight tunnel direct through the Hampstead-road; High-street, Camden Town; and along the now newly-christened "Chalk Farm"-road to Haverstock-hill, it is proposed to stop at that point in the Hampstead-road where the London and North-Western Railway intersects and runs into the cutting at Stanhope-place, Mornington-crescent. Here it is proposed that the underground line shall terminate, so far as its northern extent is concerned, at all events for the present. It is, however, understood that here it will connect with the London and North-Western and with a station at the top of Park-street, Camden Town, near the York and Albany, and thus proceed to its destination of the Chalk Farm station at Haverstock-hill.



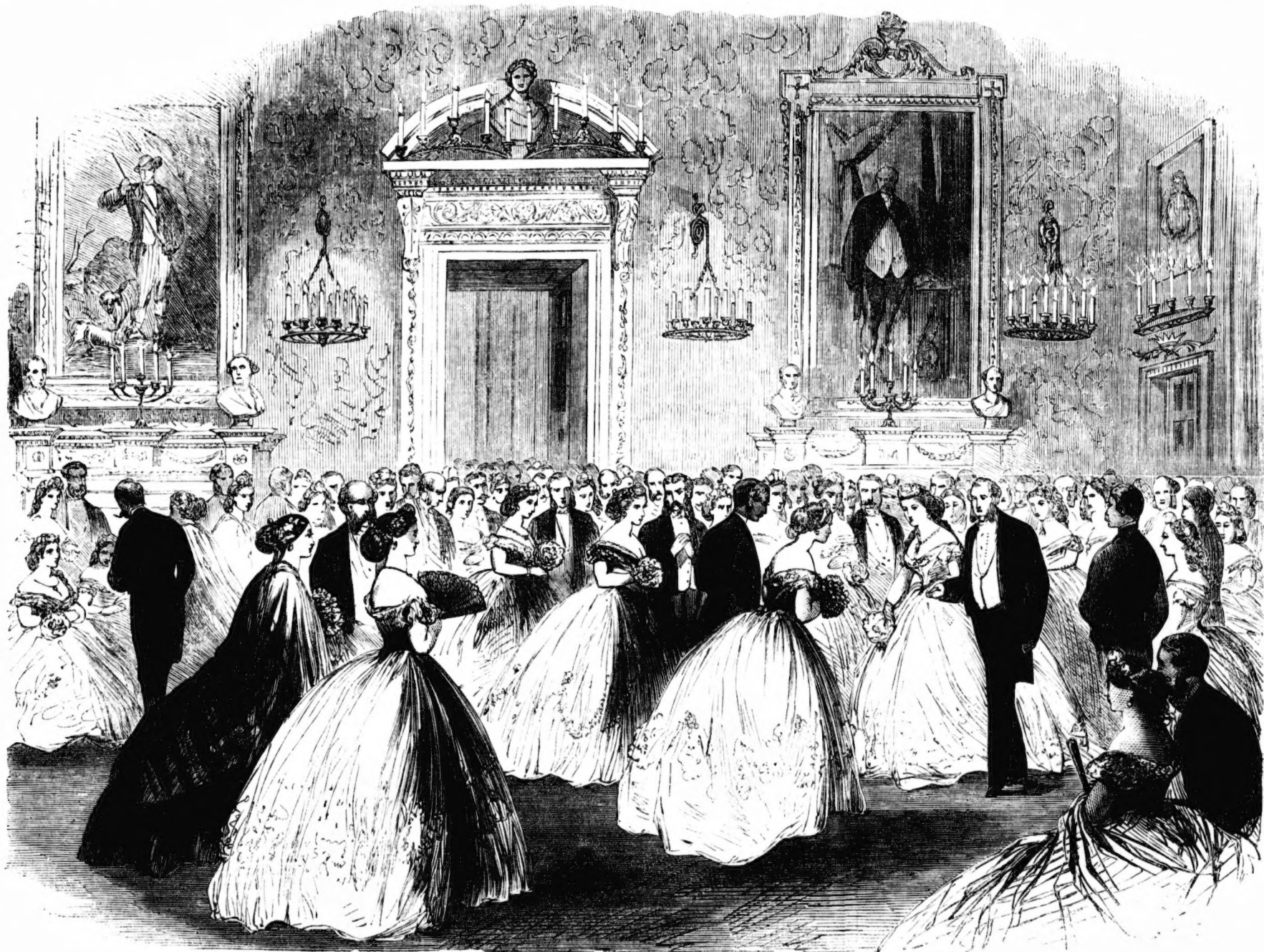
1. Water Company's Mains. 2. Pneumatic Railway. 3. Metropolitan Railway. 4. New Hampstead and Charing-cross Junction Line.

PROPOSED HAMPSTEAD AND CHARING-CROSS JUNCTION RAILWAY: SECTION SHOWING THE NEW LINE, THE METROPOLITAN, AND THE PNEUMATIC RAILWAY AT THE CORNER OF HAMPSTEAD-ROAD.

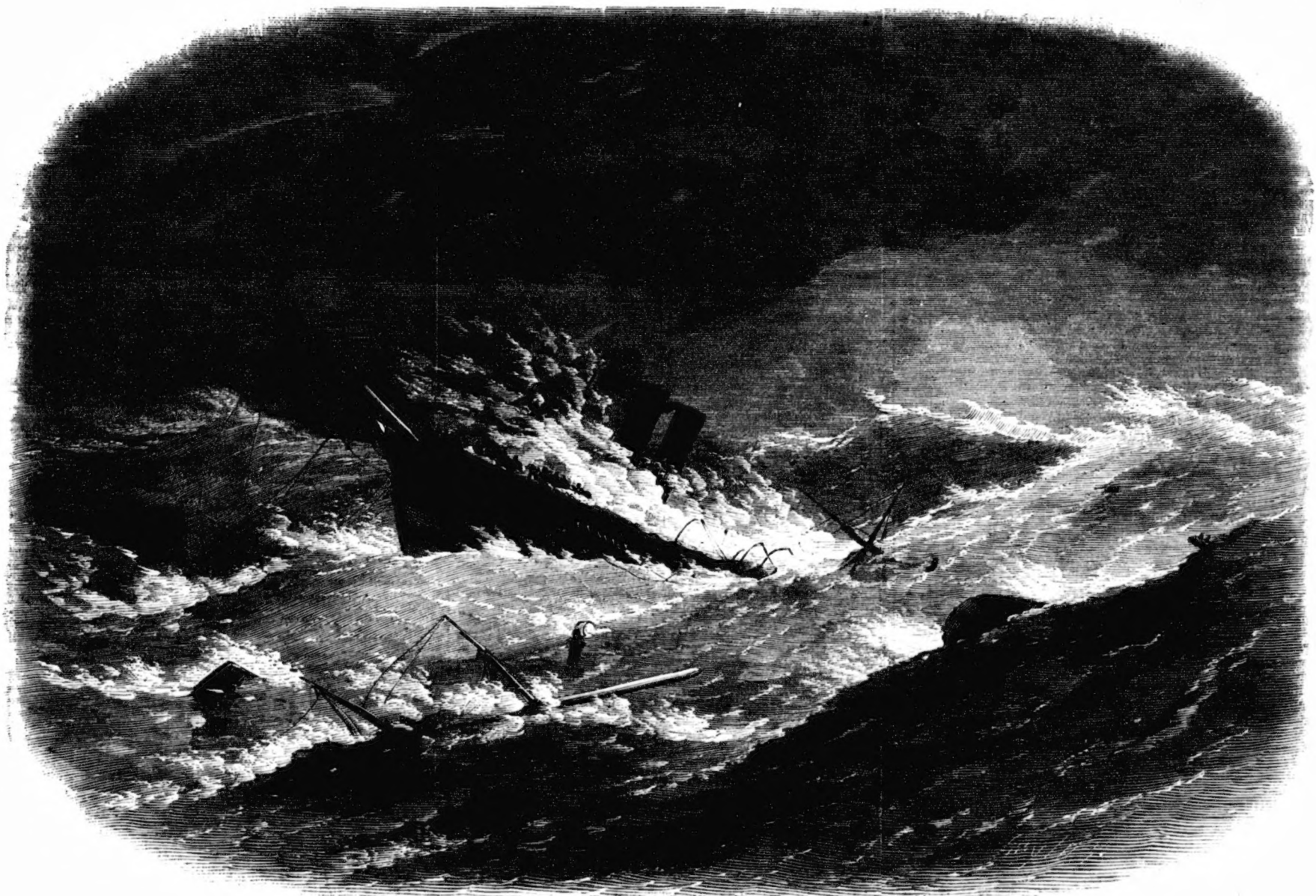
The frontage of the London and North-Western station at Charing-cross will be about as large as the present station. This line will provide the third line of direct communication, already sanctioned by Parliament, between the railways on the north and south sides of the Thames. One now in work is by the West

London Extension, which connects the London and North-Western and the Great Western with the southern lines by means of the bridge at Kensington; the second is the London, Chatham, and Dover, which connects the Great Northern and the Midland by means of the bridge at Blackfriars and the Metropolitan line; and

the third is the one above described, which will bring the London and North-Western traffic on to the South-Eastern system by means of the bridge at Hungerford. Preparations are now being made for commencing the construction of this important link of the metropolitan railways in the coming spring.



VISIT OF THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES TO HOLKHAM HOUSE: THE BALL.



WRECK OF HER MAJESTY'S STEAM-SHIP RACEHORSE IN THE CHINA SEAS.—SEE PAGE 30.

THE PRINCE AND PRINCESS OF WALES AT HOLKHAM HALL.

HOLKHAM HALL, the stately residence of the Earls of Leicester of that ilk, was last week the scene of high festivity. Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales were on a visit to the noble owner, and the mansion was the scene of a round of gaieties, in which the neighbouring nobility and gentry fully participated, and which were brought to a close by a grand ball on the evening of Friday, the 6th inst. This ball was a most brilliant and successful entertainment. The company alighted at the great entrance, and entered the Egyptian hall. This was brilliantly lighted, antique vases on pedestals being placed at intervals along the side, while blooming flowers were intertwined between the fluted Ionic pillars. The apartments devoted to the ball were the saloon, the south-west and south-east drawing-rooms, and the statue and Claude Lorraine galleries. The saloon and the south-west drawing-room were especially devoted to dancing. The statue-gallery was the supper-room, while the south-east drawing-room was adapted as a card-room.

The Earl and Countess received their guests in the saloon, which was brilliantly lighted by 300 waxlights. The portico of the south front, into which the saloon opens by three large windows, was inclosed for the orchestra. It was formed in imitation of a bower; two large vases filled with flowers were in the centre, and it was lighted by candelabra on pedestals. The Prince of Wales led off with the Countess of Leicester in the first quadrille, and the Earl of Leicester's partner was the Princess of Wales.

Supper was announced soon after midnight, when the Prince of Wales led the Countess of Leicester, and the Earl of Leicester the Princess of Wales, to the statue-gallery, where a choice entertainment was provided. A select party accompanied the Royal guests to the supper-room, and, after a short interval, parties of the general visitors followed. Dancing was prolonged to an early hour on Saturday morning, the Prince and Princess remaining nearly to the last.

The invitations issued for the ball comprised:—Marquis Townshend and Lady Audrey Townshend, the Earl and Countess of Albemarle, the Earl of Orford, Lord and Lady Sondes, Lord Hastings, Lord and Lady Walsingham, Lord and Lady Bayning, Lady James Townshend, Dowager Lady Suffolk, Lord and Lady Ashburton, the High Sheriff of Norfolk and Mrs. Lee Warner, the Hon. H. and Lady Catherine Cole, Lady Mary and Miss Stephenson, Sir H. and Lady Bedingfield, Sir J. and the Misses Boileau, Lieutenant-Colonel Sir T. and Lady Proctor Beauchamp, Sir F. and Lady Victoria Buxton; Sir W., Lady, and the Misses Ffolkes; Sir R. and Lady Buxton, Sir W. and Lady Jones, Sir Jacob and Lady Preston, Sir W. and Lady Hoste; Sir W., Lady, and Miss Foster; Sir E. K. and Lady Lacon, Major-General Sir Archdale and Lady Wilson, General Angerstein, General, Mrs., and the Misses Knollys; General Porter, Admiral and Mrs. Seymour; the Hon. Major, Mrs., and Miss Walpole; the Very Rev. the Dean of Norwich and Mrs. Pellet, the Hon. F. Calthorpe, the Hon. A. Calthorpe, the Hon. A. Fitzmaurice, the Hon. G. and Mrs. Mills, the Hon. H. Harbord and Mrs. Harbord, the Hon. and Rev. J. and Mrs. Harbord, the Hon. R. Harbord, the Rev. E. and Lady Jodrell, Sir H. and Lady Stracey, Sir Ivor Guest, the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Bouverie, the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Ormerod, the Ven. Archdeacon and Mrs. Hankinson; in fact, all the principal county families of Norfolk may be said to have been represented.

Literature.

Quite Alone. By GEORGE AUGUSTUS SALA. 3 vols. Chapman and Hall.

By something like common consent, books published in numbers, or bit by bit in periodicals, disarm the literary world of criticism. The tribe of critics, absolutely more irritable than that of poets, are made to "bow the head and bend the knee," not in the "proudest palace of slavery," but before a tribunal from which there is no appeal. That Court of Final Appeal is the public; and, in a literary sense, blest is he who is able to prove many "previous convictions" in the shape of successful novels, essays, sketches, and the like. With Mr. Sala's claim to be recognised as a chief amongst the first ranks of this class the readers of this Journal are perfectly familiar. Without being exactly—as Moore spoke of Ireland to Wellington—the "land that first cradled his fame," these pages were prompt at securing the best that Mr. Sala had to give. And here, though no positive criticism be intended, it seems right to give the reader some idea of the singular and strong characteristics of which Mr. Sala's last novel, "Quite Alone," is composed.

Here it becomes necessary to preface the story, without telling it. For one half, or one third, of his third volume Mr. Sala is indebted to a gentleman who may be called a friend, if such lucid explanation be satisfactory. One half of the story was written and became the property of *All the Year Round*, when the author went to the United States and Mexico to fulfil an important literary engagement. From steam-boat or car, from occasional resting-places, but eternally harassed by that "moving on" without which Sir Richard Mayne would die of ennui—unless, indeed, female plebs would discontinue selling small tooth combs in the City, and Tower-hill would cease to trouble, in both of which cases something would have to be done for the police—eternally harassed by want of accommodation caused by too much locomotion, Mr. Sala lost the thread of his story at almost the last moment. It was a case of writing the last chapters of "Quite Alone" with a manifold writer, as the post was never safe without two copies of the MS., in case one might fail. And so a little clemency—just a bud or two, scarcely a bouquet—is besought on account of any clashing gleams which may have occurred in a beautiful picture, and which would not have occurred had the artist himself taken better pains with his own picture instead of lavishing his time and genius upon that painful Pietro Perugino, America. But the philosophic vagabond of Dr. Goldsmith must give place to many more or less philosophic vagabonds of Mr. Sala. "Quite Alone" is, in reality, the story of Lily, a little girl born under most adverse circumstances, and who rises, by her own goodness, to that high position in the eye of the world which she has from first to last held in that of the reader. But yet, although the interest centres about her, she is not the principal character. The principal character—the word heroine cannot be used—is Valerie, a French girl, who is brought up brutally and continues to live abominably. She marries an English devil-may-care *roué*, swindler, gambler, wreck, and suicide, and becomes the mother of Lily, whose loneliness gives the title of the story. With all that story it may be presumed that the interested world is familiar. But even the interested world may have but carelessly looked at the elements of the story week by week. The characters are every one bitten in too deeply to suffer a chance of gaining freedom from the reader's mind; but, as making up a coherent whole story, they would be likely to suffer much from weekly publication. They all come together in the end, although perhaps not in the precise manner arranged and ordered by Mr. Sala in the beginning; but the story made up by the characters would, under those circumstances, be likely to suffer as a story, because Mr. Sala possesses a faculty stronger than that of story-telling. To be brief, he is ever fond of "Dutch Pictures"—the happiest name which he ever gave to some of his best pen-and-ink sketches—works as beautiful, faithful, and, we will say, enduring as those works whence he derived the name. The "Quite Alone" is full of these sketches, but they do not weaken the effect of a good story powerfully told. They blend admirably, and without them the story would seem incomplete. From the first chapter, Kensington and the Horticultural Fête, up to the close, the reader who once discovers the faculty of the writer could only cry, "More, more! I pry thee more!" Such passages are the *entrées* of literature—they sustain the taste and give variety. Thus, the celebrations of July in Paris are described as vividly as if they had

been seen in London yesterday. The inner life of an English girls' school and a French girls' school contrasts with a broad and humorous effect. But the scenes are principally contrasted in this way: Frascati and its English substitutes are here. French rogues and English rogues, and rogues on either side transplanted to the other's shore. There are many rogues of both countries; but a Swiss and a German—poor fellows!—redeem human nature and gain the best sympathy from the way in which they, without savagely triumphing over wickedness, are willing, able, and successful to save the fortunes of the spirited little creation who threads throughout the volumes. There are many ruffians; but there are some worthy people who emerge from their clouds and derive peace and health from the little goodness which is in them, and which grows by the goodness upon which it feeds. Jean Baptiste Constant is as hearty and good a character, after a time, as the novel world has for long afforded. The English Baronet is worthy of far more space. There are a few pages concerning a *Mme. Prudence*, who "doesn't see why Protestants should be damned," which is quite as good as Sterne, and is apparently free from sentiment—hypocrisy, it has been called of late. But the real character is Valerie, who is everything by turns and everything strong, as far as regards brutal passions, from the highest to the lowest degree, and who yet, horrible as she is, manages to look upon paper about as much like human life as human life could ever pray not to look like. Enough of the characters, the many good and bad, of which we are reminded by a re-reading of "Quite Alone" in a collected shape. If the scenes are strong, the characters are stronger, and have vitality which few writers can give. For incessant variety of incident, savage and humane; of locality, desperate, gentle, and *couleur de rose*, from the Morgue to Pall-mall, Clapham to the Queen's Bench; and of Society to faithfully correspond to all parts, "Quite Alone" will be recognised as the most striking novel of the season.

MORE BOOKS FOR THE YOUNG.

Heroism of Boyhood; or, What Boys Have Done By WILLIAM MARTIN, Editor of "Peter Parley's Annual." With Illustrations. London: Darton and Hodge.

Ishmael the Yezidee, a Romance of Syrian Life. By MRS. J. B. WEBB. With Illustrations. London: Darton and Hodge.

The Holiday Keepsake, or Birthday Gift. By PETER PARLEY, and other Popular Authors. London: Darton and Hodge.

Cushions and Corners, or Holidays at Old Orchard. By Mrs. R. G. GREENE. London: Smith, Elder, and Co.

Labour and Wait, or Evelyn's Story. By EMMA JANE WORBOISE. London: Houlston and Wright.

The first book mentioned in our list is described by its author as intended to exhibit the heroism of moral worth exemplified in the history of men whose conduct in boyhood has led to success and good fortune in after life. The same idea has been treated in various ways before, but the author of the present volume has dealt with it in a style of his own. With much apparent earnestness, he says that he has been instigated to publish the book in vindication of the principle that true heroism does not consist, as it was supposed to do in former times, in slaying thousands, founding empires, or subjugating nations, but in performing our duty in that state of life which God has assigned to us. There is a heroism (he observes) in refraining from evil, in speaking the truth, in the exercise of humanity, and in devoting ourselves to some difficult task for the sake of others. This is certainly salutary philosophy for the young; and the writer proceeds to establish his theory by concise narratives of the histories of notable characters who, in their youth, distinguished themselves by the exercise of such virtues as he describes. Beginning with the story of David, the son of Jesse, he passes down to the boyhood of Oliver Cromwell, David Livingstone, John Kitto, Sir William Jones, Alexander Pope, Turenne, Colbert, George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Joseph Hume, Sir Humphrey Davy, Lord Nelson, George Stephenson, and many others. He thus illustrates the heroism of truth, of amiability, of perseverance, of courage, of friendship, &c., and he carries out this very instructive design through the medium of short biographical sketches, which disclose particular events in early life, and show by what means some of the greatest men of various countries have risen to eminence. A glance at the names we have mentioned (every one of which is truly as familiar as a household word) will at once enable the reader to discover the varied character of the work. The author has judiciously dismissed the subsequent career of his heroes in a few words, after he has once shown how they have been launched upon the broad waters of the world, and by what peculiar thought or process they have overcome those difficulties to which youth is liable, and the surmounting of which has often led onward to greatness. Nothing could be more interesting or pathetic in its way than the brief narrative of the career of John Kitto, who, from the position of a pauper boy in the workhouse at Plymouth, rose to literary distinction and received a pension of £100 a year from the Civil List on account of his useful and meritorious works; and in contrast with this history is that of George Washington, who was born under a brighter star, and whose distinguishing peculiarity in his boyhood was an extreme love of truth and a habit of doing all things thoroughly—qualities which signalled him in after-life as they did in his exemplary youth. As the moral deduced from the career of this remarkable hero may be regarded substantially as the moral of the book, we cannot do better justice to the author than by quoting the earnest tribute he pays to Washington's wise example. The teaching of that example is (he says) that habitual study, obedience, industry, thoroughness, and respect for the rights and feelings of others will lead to eminence—a doctrine which almost every page in this volume suffices to verify.

"Ishmael the Yezidee" tells a story of the trials and sufferings endured by the Nestorian Christians in Kurdistan on account of their adherence to the faith of the Gospel. The narrative is interesting and well told, and contains much valuable and evidently reliable information regarding the habits and customs of a people who, the author says, have for many years afforded her far more pleasure and instruction than she could have derived from confining her attention to the people and the scenery of her own more highly-favoured land. A somewhat sacred tone pervades the book, and there is a tinge of Orientalism in the language which well befits the subject. The story has all the semblance of a veritable record of travels, and yet there is a colouring of romance in various parts which shows that Mrs. Webb is gifted with an imagination commensurate with her powers of observation. The youthful reader, while gaining instruction in the doctrines of Christianity as preached and practised in distant parts, is occasionally surprised by touches of the romantic in the shape of a fearful fall from a precipice into a yawning gulf, or a deadly encounter between a human being and a bear, a miraculous escape from death, or some other spirit-moving event.

The "Holiday Keepsake" is a kind of companion to the "Heroism of Boyhood"—got up in precisely the same style in regard to type, ornamentation, and variety of contents; but the nature of the subject-matter is, of course, essentially different. The latter book, as we have shown, treats of biography; the former is devoted, for the most part, to a series of essays judiciously and pleasantly seasoned here and there with touches of humour and spices of fiction which might well be taken for fact. It is written in that easy, unpretentious style, for which all books emanating from the same source have been distinguished; and a wholesome tone of morality pervades the volume, which makes it eminently suitable for young readers. The author's love of children is everywhere displayed, and he seems to dance round about them and to enter into all their innocent enjoyments like a good spirit in a fairy picture. He discourses of donkey-riding and the freaks of a billy-goat in a strain of comic philosophy which few writers but himself could command, and which is so judiciously introduced as to render the disquisitions on those subjects as readable to the old as they are entertaining to the young. The book opens with an invitation, in

simple rhyme, to children to come forth and make holiday; and this is followed by a piece of natural philosophy in the shape of "The Story of a Drop of Water," gracefully and instructively told. Next, we have a description of a spring morning, with the singing of the cuckoo; a dissertation on rooks and rookeries; essays on the most diverse subjects; and other outpourings of a thoughtful and well-regulated mind, all tending to impart to the youthful reader a healthy idea of Nature in her various moods and aspects.

Of a different character to the work just mentioned, but equally designed for the instruction and amusement of the rising generation, is "Cushions and Corners; or, Holidays at Old Orchard." Mrs. Greene, the writer of this little story, must assuredly be the most amiable of women and the most tender of mothers who ever dandled an infant upon her knee or spread flowers in the thorny path which sometimes leads from the nursery. She has set herself the task of inculcating a moral which forms the motto to her titlepage, "Be kindly affectioned one to another, in honour preferring one another," and this task she has accomplished through the medium of a story of domestic life, in which a young family of brothers and sisters are the chief actors. The scene is laid in a rural part of the county of Yorkshire, at the "sunniest house in the country," called Old Orchard, which Mrs. Greene describes as a regular children's paradise. In this paradise the little Cramers, who are the young heroes and heroines of the tale, are made to exhibit to the world all the ways and means of their everyday life—their joys and sorrows—their whims and oddities—their freaks of temper—their vexations and disappointments—their jealousies and rivalries—their various notions of right and wrong—and the ever-changing phases of thought and character which tend to form a nursery drama as enacted in an English domestic home. The title of the book is suggested by the moral distinction drawn by the author between people who have a soft, easy, good-natured way of dealing with the troubles and concerns of life, and those who treat matters in a sharp, angular, uncomfortable fashion. The former she calls "cushions"—made to be sat upon by everybody, and who could never hurt anyone in the whole world; the latter she characterises as "corners"—always knocking against people, or getting knocked against themselves. The idea is certainly novel and ingenious, and it is worked out in a spirit of loving-kindness and Christian piety which coupled with the fact that the language is always simple, unaffected, and appropriate, gives to the book an especial charm amongst publications designed to inculcate a moral lesson through the pleasant medium of "light literature."

Evelyn Charteris, the heroine of "Labour and Wait," who is made to tell her own story, is one of those self-willed, strong-minded young ladies, who, being "unfortunately plain," have not those advantages which fall to the lot of the more favoured daughters of Eve. Though blessed with a kind and indulgent father, she is not equally fortunate in her mother (a lady of aristocratic origin), who shows no love for her, but whose thoughts and affections are centred in a younger brother. This youthful scion being born when Evelyn was nine years old, becomes (as the author relates) the "petty tyrant of the house," and the servants are obliged to yield as much submission to him as if he had been five-and-twenty years older than his sister. Suddenly a blight falls upon their home, for Mr. Charteris becomes a bankrupt, and Evelyn is compelled to take a situation as governess, in which capacity the idiosyncracies of her character develop themselves; and in course of time she becomes an author. Notwithstanding her "plainness," she is not doomed to be utterly disregarded by the ruder sex, and at length finds a warm and devoted admirer in one Clement Manning, whose suit, however, she rejects, being resolved in her wayward mind to continue the pursuit of her literary calling; in fact, to "labour and to wait." But the rejected lover cannot subdue his passion, and is almost at the point of death in consequence of Evelyn's refusal. At this juncture a sister of the forlorn swain pleads for him; and, unable to resist her tender appeal, Evelyn becomes engaged to him, and so far administers to his pleasure as to abandon "her own beloved Handel and Pergolesi, and Sebastian Bach and Mendelssohn" for the more frivolous music of polkas and quadrilles. In short, Evelyn is a high-spirited young damsel, with a taste for classic writers and great poets, whilst her lover is a matter-of-fact gentleman with no such lofty aspirations, and who, to the extreme annoyance of his innamorata, presses his suit by continually speaking of her superiority over him. But the poor fellow is suddenly obliged to visit an unhealthy climate on an important mission, and on his return he sinks under the evils it has wrought on his constitution. Meanwhile another interesting individual appears upon the scene in the person of John Vere, who, in the eyes of the fickle Evelyn, is possessed of every virtue that can adorn an "eligible" bachelor, and is indeed to her precisely what her affianced husband is not; but she is not destined to be wedded to either the one or the other; for the latter, as we have seen, dies, and the former loves and is loved by another. As to the end of the story we are not yet informed, for appended to the volume is an announcement that "Part 2 will appear in July;" and all that the reader is at present permitted to know is that the heroine is still resolved to "labour and to wait"—although she has already done so through upwards of four hundred pages.

DEATH OF MR. JAMES WALLACK.—Mr. James Wallack, the distinguished actor and theatrical manager, died recently in New York. Mr. J. W. Wallack's theatrical career dates from a past era of the stage. He and "O. J. Smith"—whose initial nickname was bestowed on him for the excellence of his acting in the part of Obi in "Three-Fingered Jack"—were born in 1792. Wallack had consequently attained the ripe old age of seventy-three years; but, until a recent period, he betrayed few signs of natural decay; and, in spite of the lameness caused by a compound fracture of his leg on the stage of the Princess's Theatre many years ago, he preserved an elasticity of gait and buoyancy of manner which had distinguished him in his representation of the gay, mercurial heroes of melodrama and comedy in earlier days. Indeed, those who remember his first efforts are wont to declare that they lacked any indication of the manly gaiety and energetic dash of the style which he acquired by long practice of his art. Perhaps the first revelation given to himself of the full powers that were in him was afforded by his unqualified success in the character of *Massaroni*, in Mr. Planche's effective melodrama, "The Brigand." In this part James Wallack, one of the handsomest men who ever trod the stage, had opportunities of assuming a certain devil-may-care deportment, with sentimental touches here and there, which became him remarkably well; and, though not a professed singer, he delighted his audience so much by the delivery of the charming romance of "Gentle Zitelia," with its guitar accompaniment, that the song became the rage with all young gentlemen possessed of tolerable voices. From the time of his immense popularity in the part of the nobleman's son who had taken to the romantic existence of a mountain thief, Wallack rapidly rose to the highest fame as a melodramatic actor; and he even aspired, not without fair warrant of ability, to the higher interpretations of Mercutio in "Romeo and Juliet," and Petruchio in "The Taming of the Shrew." Having found great favour with American audiences during a Transatlantic tour, Mr. James Wallack finally built and opened a theatre in New York, which he called by his own name, and which he rendered popular chiefly by the exercise of his own talents. The decay of his powers latterly prevented his appearing on the stage, and the management of the theatre has devolved upon his son.

THE SAFFRON-HILL MURDER.—The Italian, Polizzoni, who is charged with the murder of the confectioner at Saffron-hill, was brought up before the police magistrate on Wednesday. For the defence several Italian witnesses were called, who stated that there was another Italian, a man named Gregorio, who was in the quarrel, who had since absconded, and who, it was argued by the solicitor for the prisoner, was the real murderer. The magistrate, who remarked that the weakness of the case against Polizzoni was that no knife had been traced to him, though he might have passed it after the stabbing to some of his companions, declined on committing him for trial.

THE MURDER IN PLAISTOW MARSHES.—The trial of Kohl for the murder of his countryman, Fuhrhop, in the North Woolwich marshes, was commenced at the Central Criminal Court on Wednesday. The prisoner elected to be tried by a mixed jury. The facts of the case, as they were given at the time of the discovery of the murder, were again fully gone into by the different witnesses, and among them was a brother of the deceased, who stated that he and his mother accompanied the deceased on board the steamer at Hamburg, where he took his passage to England with the intention of proceeding to America. The trial proceeded as far as to the close of the case for the prosecution, when an adjournment took place. The trial was concluded on Thursday by the jury returning a verdict of "Guilty," and the prisoner being sentenced to be hanged.

OUR FEUILLETON.

MILITARY BOHEMIANS UNDER THE EAGLES.

THE humours of military life delight all classes of the French people. The Turcos, the Spahis, and the Zouaves have by tune, and together, given ample material to caricaturists and feuilleton writers. The Fantassin, displaying his ignorance in strange places or making love in bad French to a *bonne* in the Tuileries gardens, is a figure never absent from the windows of the Paris printseller. Barrack humour supplies inexhaustible material to the caricaturists. These facetious gentlemen owe a heavy debt of gratitude to the drum-majors of the French army. Even the humble draughtsmen who draw broad sheets of amusing pictures for the French young idea love to take soldiers for their theme. When the French and English were fighting together in China, the *Journal pour Rire*, the *Charivari*, and other light illustrated papers, were packed with sketches of the gallant French soldier's social, as well as his military, relations with the Chinese. Fantassin lorded it merrily over the unhappy Celestials. He was quite at home in their holiest places. He trilled his songs in their temples, and insisted that they were only extravagantly designed cafés. He stirred his coffee with the pigtail of his vanquished enemy. His ingenuity was exercised day and night, according to Paris caricaturists, in contriving new forms of practical joking at the expense of John Chinaman. I remember one caricature that was a source of infinite amusement to French childhood. Two or three French troopers, having caught a couple of very tall and dignified mandarins, whom they had selected for their exceedingly long pigtails, had tied the tails of the two Celestial dignitaries together, and in this way had contrived a swing. A light-hearted *Piou-Piou* was vehemently swinging himself on this novel balancin, while his companions in the mischief were waiting to have their turn. During the Russian War, again, the light illustrated periodicals of Paris abounded with sketches of the dazzling *esprit* of the French trooper as exercised upon the stolid, stupid Muscovite. Then there are the loves of the line. Fantassin in love, or making love, or paying compliments to some high-capped Norman *bonne*, is a picture of *gauche* gaiety. His gallantry and his politeness are above suspicion; but his grammar and his attitudes are of the rudest. According to his delineators his ignorance is startling; but it is welcome because it takes humorous forms and is dashed with a chivalrous *esprit de corps*. Fantassin appeals to his corporal on every question of human interest. The corporal is never at a loss for an answer; and the vast and varied misinformation he conveys to the benighted *Piou-Piou* is a fountain of amusement to the good people of France that never fails. The charm of all these sketches and descriptions of the French soldier is the all pervading and indomitable gaiety of them. Fantassin is easily amused at a penny bail, or sitting out the performances of Polichinelle. He loves his tobacco and his coffee, and he will contrive to get them wherever he may happen to be. Cast him on an enemy's shore, and his coffee will be warming before he is well out of the surf. This light, gallant, and airy spirit of his carries its own sunshine with it. The chances of war, that sometimes keep his stomach empty, never fail in providing material for his ingenuity and his amusement. His songs are rich and racy, whether he sings of Father Bugeaud's cap or of the prowess and the sentiment of the Zouave. He is happy at nicknames, and shines in all the gaieties of a camp. Let the commissariat fail, he will not sit down to repine nor sullenly wait; he will see what he can do for himself in the way of provisions. The Zouaves, especially, are remarkable for the sprightliness and the freedom with which they will help themselves, whether on the territory of a friend or an enemy. For a handful of vegetables, did not some Zouaves risk their lives night after night before Sebastopol? It is from Algeria, however, that the French public are supplied with the richest and the rarest store of military anecdote and facetie; from Algeria, the nursery of the most brilliant French soldiers who have achieved renown since the fall of the first Bonaparte. In this rough and ever active school, where for many years the sword has hardly been sheathed, have been bred not only brilliant captains, like Bugeaud, St. Arnaud, Pelissier, Lamoricière, and a host of others, but also crowds of military Bohemians—intrepid soldiers, albeit loose moralists. Paris, some few years ago, had a taste of what the Turcos were. Some of them were fierce and wild as tigers, and while they lay in camp by Vincennes the officers who had them in charge had no easy time of it. They were pleasant joyous fellows enough, I remember, when they were doing the honours of the camp, along their streets of tents, to the hosts of Parisian ladies who flocked to see their open-air domesticity. They were very graceful and mild as they bowed to their fair visitors, and pointed out the thousand and one ingenious contrivances for comfort which were to be seen under the canvas. But those brilliant eyes of theirs, that sparkled in the light of ladies' presence, shot consuming fire at the first person who angered them. While I was driving through the wood to the camp my carriage was stopped by a cloud of dust, with a confusion of interlaced limbs dimly seen in the centre of it.

"Two Turcos fighting, Monsieur," said the stolid coachman, pointing to the struggle in the dust.

They were fighting indeed! They were tightly locked in each other's arms, and were baying and growling like wild animals. Could either have got at his sword, the work would have been sharp and short for his opponent. They bit the dust as they rolled over each other. Their turbans had become unwound, and lay in long coils, like serpents' skins, on the road. A few Parisians who were walking to the camp watched this demoniacal struggle from a respectful distance.

"Bêtes féroces!" muttered one gentleman between his teeth, and then shrugged his shoulders and moved off.

Two or three brawny gendarmes put an end to the struggle and hurled the two men off, growling like animals disappointed of their prey. These amiable "Children of the Desert," as they were playfully called by the Parisians, had a wide berth provided for them in the streets of Paris; and it was found absolutely necessary by the authorities to order cabmen never to dispute with a Turco about the fare, but to take what the child of the desert chose to give, and to apply to the authorities for the balance. On the very morrow of the entry of the army of Italy into Paris, these same Turcos, whose ferocity had been useful in Lombardy, were marched far away from Vincennes. A finer set of men for replenishing an empty commissariat, by fair means or by foul, than these same Turcos could not be found in any army. Strange things tumble, somehow, into the *pot-au-feu* of the flying columns of the French army. A serpent, disguised in a savoury omelet of eggs, has rejoiced the inner man of a party of voltigeurs. Camus tells a story of four soldiers belonging to a flying column that had halted, short of provisions, on the frontiers of Morocco. These four went gaily forth in search of what the forest might yield. They found a serpent that had evidently been decapitated a few hours previously by an Arab. A "hedge eel" was too great a delicacy to be shown at the camp; so the men who had found it carried it off to a little distance, where they secretly fried it with some eggs they had, and consumed it with great relish. It is true that they had been marching many leagues that day, and that all the nourishment they had had since sunrise was a broken biscuit and a cup of coffee. Serpent omelet is a dish to be enjoyed, I should imagine, only after considerable fasting.

Military Bohemians are many in number among the Spahis, the Zouaves, and the Zephirs. But perhaps the regiment where the types of military Bohemia are most varied, and where every soldier is a Bohemian, is that of the Foreign Legion, which was created in the spring of 1831. The Foreign Legion is as distinguished for its bravery as for its eccentricities. The men who compose this regiment are of various countries. Herein will be found the German, the Italian, the Pole, and the Belgian; all mingled closely together in harmony, because animated by one dominant spirit of adventure. Some of them have been driven into the ranks of this eccentric regiment by the pressure of want, while others have been

led to it by mysterious influences they are careful not to submit to the eye of the vulgar. Nearly all these men are in some way victims of a cruel destiny; and to them a life of wild and joyous adventure is a welcome refuge from their dismal past. So they hold together firmly, love their regiment, wear its uniform with pride, feel a pleasurable thrill at the sound of the trumpet, and are inspired with a thirst for fighting. Most of these waifs whom the French flag has attracted are illiterate men. They have no hope of advancement, for they have not the knowledge which is necessary to him who would rise from the ranks. They are content to pass their lives in adventurous expeditions in Algeria with fellow-unfortunates from curious nooks and corners of the world. They are rude philosophers, who fight for the love of fighting. In this Foreign Legion there are, it should be observed, two classes of soldiers—namely, those who are by birth or long habit Frenchmen, and those children of misfortune from foreign countries who, being ignorant and having the vagabond spirit strong within them, hold themselves somewhat sullenly apart from their facetious and more educated fellow-soldiers. Antoine Camus likens the more educated class of the foreign legion to the Zouaves, and the ignorant soldiers of the legion to the irritable and rebellious Turcos.

The reader will readily imagine that in a Bohemian regiment like this there are many curious types of men. There is, for instance, the translator and scribe of his company, who has a jargon of two or three languages at his command. When he writes a letter for a companion, it is his pleasure and his pride to convey the most familiar and prosaic news in the most florid and poetic language. He walks proudly off with his unlettered companion to crack a bottle of wine with him as the price of his epistolary labours. Of course there are one or two professed duellists of the regiment, who absolutely revel in quarrels among their comrades; and there is the carottier, who may be fairly described as the plunderer, who justifies himself when he robs hen-roosts by declaring that he has a right to levy a daily tax on those whom he protects. The regiment has also its professors of German; professor of German being the nickname for the clever rascals who trade in a hundred ways on the credulity of recruits, colonists, and Arabs. The Foreign Legion is said to hold a place between the Turcos and the Zephirs. To see this regiment of soldiers of various races at their best, they must be met camping in one of the wilds of Algeria, where the chances of war lead them into many scrapes, and where they have many a time and oft gone to sleep without seeing the least chance of food on the morrow.

There is a story told of a company of the Foreign Legion that was snowed up in the valley of Bel-Kassem. They were far away from any station, and the snow had blotted out all traces of the road they should take. They had sent out scouts in search of the missing provision-waggons that should have followed them. The pangs of sharp hunger had seized the men, and still there were no signs of the missing provisions. The few handfuls of rice and dried vegetables that remained in the hands of the cooks had been distributed and consumed. The men sat gloomy and savage about the camp fire, discussing almost hopelessly what should be done. At last their young captain called them together (he probably saw mutiny in their eyes) and bade them nerve themselves for a dash at the camp of one of the tribes that was at some distance from them. The way was full of perils. The snow was deep on the ground, and the men were feeble after their long fasting. They had a weary journey before them, to be ended by a fight in which they would probably be greatly outnumbered, before they were likely to break their fast. But they were ready to dare an thing for the sake of food.

Suddenly there arose a great shout of delight through the remnant of that gallant little company. A great and glorious discovery had been made. A kid had been found nearly buried in the snow. The hungry eyes of the soldiers gathered round the devoted creature, and in a moment its blood was spattered over the white surface around. Belgian, Italian, Pole, German, all brothers in misfortune, all hungering for food, pressed about the carcass of the animal. Sleeves were tucked back, gleaming knives were brought forth, and the captain could not help laughing outright, grave as the responsibilities were that pressed upon him, as he made the skill with which his men dressed and divided and carried off, in fair proportions, the still warm flesh of the poor kid. The groans of the men were at once turned into the wildest gaiety, and they played about like boys. In the midst of the fun one of the soldiers, with uncovered head, advanced respectfully towards his officer, and, holding out a delicately-cut piece of meat, said,

"Captain, I come in the name of my comrades to offer you the beefsteak of honour."

The captain laughed and thanked the soldier, and they all went back to their camping-ground with song and laughter, lit the great fires, and cooked the meat. They were at this pleasant work when some of them espied three horsemen at the summit of a snow-covered hill, in the distance. The horsemen were natives, who had come with great baskets of black soldiers' bread tied to their saddles to relieve the little camp. No sooner did the soldiers from their camp fires guess what was in the baskets at the horsemen's saddles than they swept like a pack of hungry wolves upon them. The horsemen endeavoured to defend their burden. But the hungry soldiers were too much for them, and only the presence of the captain restored order. In a few days this company of adventurers made their triumphant entry into Sidi-Bel-Abbès.

There were many friendly eyes to welcome them there, that cast significant fraternal glances at them. To understand these significant glances thoroughly the inquirer must live the inner life of an African soldier. Among the companies of the Foreign Legion and other kindred French regiments serving in Africa there is a wide-spread secret fraternity—a system of freemasonry. These wild and wandering soldiers are mysteriously bound together in a bond of friendship, on the strength of which any one of them may calculate in a moment of danger, of trouble, or of distress. Each regiment has its own separate masonic corporation. These great secret military fraternities have their well-understood rules, and their appointed officers and dignitaries, ranging in rank from a grand master down to the novice of yesterday. There is a complete community of interests established among the fraternity. Even the rations of bread of the brethren in a company are gathered together by the chief and cast upon his bed, around which a discussion is held; and when it is decided that there is more bread than the members will require, the excess is sold for the common good. All booty is cast together and shared in the same equal manner. The brethren communicate among each other by mysterious signs and an *argot* that is their own. In this way they recognise one another in the front of battle and at the post of danger, and stand bravely shoulder to shoulder and render mutual assistance. Does one of the fraternity fall into trouble, and find himself under lock and key, every effort is made to lighten the tedium of his captivity. A brother of this mysterious association whose honour has been called in question or who is engaged in a quarrel, find troops of ardent friends who insist upon standing at his side and seeing that his measure of justice is full. The manner in which an affair of honour is conducted under the auspices of this military freemasonry is best explained by Camus's description of a fight he saw in one of the wild ravines of Algeria. It took place during an expedition against the troublesome tribes of Beni Snaseen.

It was on a splendid African evening. The column had just halted to rest for the night. The bugles were sounding on all sides; the soldiers, divested of their heavy knapsacks, were singing and disporting themselves, as the light-hearted soldiers of France will under any circumstances. Strolling carelessly about, smoking his cigarette, Camus suddenly came upon a group of Zouaves and men of the Foreign Legion who were stealing off rapidly to a ravine that lay a few hundred yards away from the camp. The hasty and secretive manner of the group, and a few suggestive words that fell from some of them, told Camus that a duel was on hand. He followed, at a distance, to where the men halted in an open space. Hiding himself behind a tuft of dwarf palms, he watched the progress of the drama. The soldiers formed themselves into two groups, and then a Zouave and a soldier of the Foreign

Legion advanced and stripped themselves for the conflict. The two combatants received straight infantry sword, commonly called cabbage-knives by the soldiers, from their respective seconds. And then the duel was gravely and cruelly opened. The first few passes showed that the strength of the two men was about equal, and that the victory would depend chiefly upon temperament. The Zouave was a robust, muscular man, with a great red beard, and whose two quick little grey eyes were full of resolute audacity. His fencing was steady and rapid. There was a savage energy in him. The soldier of the Foreign Legion, his antagonist—a Pole by birth—was thin and straggling in figure; but his nerve was good and his limbs were supple. He attacked his enemy vigorously and parried his thrusts with marvellous alertness. The strong will that was in him gave him an intrepid and heroic appearance that enlisted the spectator's sympathy at once. The clash of the swords was incessant, and vivid flashes of fire were given off. Each man was encouraged by sympathetic murmurs from the friendly group behind him. The men, warmed to their work, made furious passes, then paused to take breath, then went to work more furiously than ever. They looked at each other with obstinate determination in their faces, but showing neither anger nor hatred. Suddenly the Pole, taking advantage of a false movement of the Zouave, threw himself upon him and struck his blade deep into his shoulder. The seconds instantly interposed and the duel was for a moment interrupted. It was not, however, to end here; far from it. The comrade of the wounded man picked up his fallen sword and placed himself before the victorious Pole, who stood breathing hard and covered with perspiration after his tough encounter. The Pole's seconds begged hard that he might be allowed a few minutes' rest. But the Zouaves were so irate at the defeat of their comrade that they would not allow one minute's pause. So the Pole stood forward once more. The fight with his second adversary was sharp and fierce. There was hot passion in the glances of both the men, and the Zouave wielded his sword tempestuously. It was hard to believe that this determined encounter had been provoked by a few somewhat coarse joking bouts—mere exchanges of unmeaning sarcasms—which had taken place between the Foreign Legion and the Zouaves during one of the halts of the day. The Pole's second antagonist was not more fortunate than the first. After a few passes, another Zouave lay upon the ground with a deep wound in his right thigh. About the time the second man fell, moonlight burst upon the scene, and a very picturesque and sombre one it was—the fierce and lowering looks of two bronzed and bearded Zouaves, with their hands upon the gleaming hilts of their swords; their eyes darting glances of fire at the men of the Foreign Legion whose comrade was for a second time victorious! Suddenly, when the second wounded man had been removed and cared for, a third Zouave—a savage-looking fellow, muttering between his teeth—picked up the sword once more, and grasped it with the air of a man who had made up his mind that it should do good execution. Advancing towards the Pole, he said, with a threatening voice,

"I and you now. We play for conqueror."

Here the Pole's two seconds endeavoured to make the Zouaves admit it was unfair that one man should be called upon to face three enemies. One of the Pole's seconds obstinately insisted that it was his turn to relieve the valiant sentinel of their regiment's honour. But the Pole gently put his turbulent friend aside, quietly picked up his sword yet again, and stood before his third antagonist. He had hardly stood to his guard when the savage Zouave was upon him, and made some severe and rather clever thrusts. The Pole replied at first but feebly to the fury of his assailant, but he kept himself carefully covered. This cool behaviour threw the old Zouave into a frenzy of rage, and he wielded his sword like a wild man. There was demoniacal ferocity in his face. He looked as though he could kill and eat his opponent. There cannot be much doubt about what would have been the issue of the struggle, had no accident happened. Fortunately for the old Zouave, in the midst of one of his most furious onslaughts, the blade of his sword fell at his feet. The seconds now advanced and held a vivacious parley over the incident. It was one they had not foreseen and for which they had not provided. So it was agreed unanimously that the duel was at an end. The Foreign Legion soldiers now rushed forward and shook hands with the Zouaves and with the wounded men. They conducted the vanquished, with the most scrupulous courtesy, back to their tents. It was a strange sight to see the Foreign Legion and Zouaves, who a few minutes before had been glaring at one another like hungry tigers, walking away from the scene of the duel arm-in-arm, laughing as though they were on their way back from a pleasure excursion. It appears that each of the antagonists belonged to the masonic body of his regiment. By the laws of these military masons, a duel is never concluded until the principal has completely defeated his antagonist, and the men his antagonist has chosen for seconds.

B. J.

HOSPITAL FOR DISEASES OF THE CHEST, VICTORIA PARK.—The annual general meeting of the governors of this institution was held on Tuesday, at the London Tavern. It appeared from the report of the committee that the number of in-patients under treatment during the past year had been 439; and the total number treated since the wards were opened, in 1865, had been 3350. The number of out-patients admitted during the year was 10,819; making, with those previously relieved since the commencement, a total of 101,335. The receipts during the year, including a balance in hand, on the 1st of January, of £434 3s. 7d., had amounted to £9729 10s. 8d.; while the expenditure had been £8940 6s. 6d.—viz., for general purposes, £2897 13s. 11d.; and on account of the new wing, £3042 12s. 6d., leaving a balance of £789 4s. 3d. The collection at the last festival presided over by Lord Feversham, amounted to £5021 7s. The new wing was stated to be completed, and the portion of the building appropriated to the out-patients to be now occupied, with much advantage to the patients and medical officers. Two wards, containing sixteen additional beds, had been opened; and the committee were very desirous of opening the whole of the new wards as soon as funds can be obtained. £5000 is now required to carry on the institution. Reference was made to the great loss the charity had sustained by the death of its president, the late Earl of Carlisle, K.G. The Bishop of Oxford and Lord Feversham were appointed vice-presidents, and Dr. Southey was elected assistant physician.

CHANGES IN THE LEGISLATURE.—Both Houses of Parliament will witness several changes on the 7th of February, on which day the Legislature will assemble for the dispatch of business. Among the prominent losses which the House of Lords has sustained is that of the Duke of Newcastle, whose place will be filled by his eldest son, the Earl of Lincoln, who for some years represented Newark in the House of Commons. The Earl of Carlisle, whose death has recently taken place, is succeeded by his brother, the Hon. and Rev. W. G. Howard, M.A., Rector of Louthborough, Yorkshire. The Duke of Cleveland, who enjoyed his honours but a few months, is succeeded by his brother, Lord Harry Vane, for many years a distinguished member of the House of Commons. The Earl of Cadogan died on Sept. 13, and is succeeded by his son, Viscount Chelsea, who for some time represented the borough of Dover in the Lower House. The Marquis of Bristol died on Oct. 30, and his place in the House of Lords will be taken by Earl Jermyn, late member for West Suffolk. Viscount Boringdon, of Bailiol College, Oxford, who is just concluding a distinguished career in that University, will take his seat as the Earl of Morley, in succession to his father, who died on Aug. 28. The new Earl has just attained his majority, having been born on June 11, 1843. His Royal Highness the late Prince Consort stood sponsor for him at his baptism. The death of the Earl of Stair, which has recently taken place, creates another vacancy in the House of Lords, which will be supplied by Viscount Dalrymple, who will succeed as Baron Oxford, of Oxford, in the Peerage of the United Kingdom, the earldom of Stair being a Scotch peerage. Lord Manners died on Nov. 14, causing a vacancy in the House of Lords. It will remain a blank for the present, inasmuch as the successor to the title was born on May 15, 1852, and will not, therefore, reach his majority until 1873. The death of Lord Rodney, who died on Aug. 13, will also create a blank in the House of Lords, which cannot be filled up until 1878, when his successor, the Hon. George Bridges-Dennett, his eldest son, will be of age. In the House of Commons, the following new members will be entitled to take their seats on the reassembling of Parliament:—The Hon. George Waldegrave Leslie, M.P. for Hastings, in the room of Lord Harry Vane, now Duke of Cleveland; Lord Augustus Hervey, M.P. for West Suffolk, in the room of Earl Jermyn, now Marquis of Bristol; Lord Courtney, M.P. for Exeter, in the room of Mr. Edward Divett, deceased; Mr. W. Davenport Bromley, M.P. for North Warwickshire, in the room of Mr. Richard Spooner, deceased. A vacancy in the representation of Herefordshire will be officially declared at the commencement of the Session, in consequence of the retirement from public life of Lord William Graham, M.P. A new writ will be moved on the first night of the Session, for Talbot, in the room of Mr. O'Hagan, who is to be raised to the Irish Bench; and probably a writ for Bute, in the room of Mr. Mure, who is spoken of as Lord Mackenzie's successor on the Scottish Bench.

THE LATE CONFLICT IN JAPAN.

We have already published some account of the recent engagement at Simonosaki; and our illustrations this week, which are from photographs taken on the spot by an officer of the expedition, represent the scene of the battle which resulted in the taking of the Japanese forts.

After the termination of hostilities, the allied forces remained for several days anchored before the town of Simonosaki, the inhabitants of which returned immediately after the suspension of the war.

The town itself is a very populous place, forming a long line of houses extending for about a mile and a half on the north side of the strait. It is celebrated for its curious and antique pagodas, and the harbour gave accommodation to a large fleet of junks.

One of our Engravings represents the town as it appears when viewed from the heights by which it is commanded; and directly opposite may be seen Cape Mozisaki, on the island of Kionsiu; and beyond this lies the passage from the strait into the Inland Sea. On the south coast of this strait is situated the important province of Bouzen, where a native garrison is stationed, some of the officers and soldiers in which are represented in another Engraving. These men are remarkable for a small band of linen which each of them wears either on his shoulder or his back, and on which is inscribed the name of his prince, his family, and his place of residence; while, in addition to this, he is decorated with a square strip of white stuff, bearing the arms of the Prince of Nagato—three black balls surmounted by a horizontal line. Every soldier carries, as a part



GROUP OF JAPANESE OFFICERS AND SOLDIERS.

of his accoutrements, an army fan, which resembles the ordinary fan, except that the frame is of iron instead of wood; and, when held closed in the hand is a formidable weapon, sufficient to ward off a blow, or to answer the purpose of a life-preserver.

One of the most remarkable of the pagodas to which we have already referred is that of Kamihama-yon, which is

guarded by the subjects of her august mother-in-law, the latest gift received being a wedding present from the colonists of Victoria, Australia. This present consists of a very elegant and costly epergne, manufactured almost entirely from colonial gold, silver, and specimens; the stand, which is the only portion not constituted of precious metal, being of the best polished black wood.

situated on the seacoast, and offers a singularly picturesque appearance, from the succession of exterior terraces which rise one above another, shaded by large wide-spreading trees and reached by a series of staircases. These are ornamented by stone lanterns of a pyramidal form, similar to those that adorn all the pagodas of Japan.

The *Moniteur de l'Armée*, in giving an account of the celebration of the Emperor Napoleon's last birthday at Yokohama, Japan, observes that a Catholic church has been established for the last three years in a country where Christianity was proscribed for two centuries previous. France, guided by her courageous missionaries, was the first to raise the cross, the symbol of the religion previously persecuted. The morning on which the Emperor's birthday was celebrated the outside of the church, ordinarily very quiet, presented the unusual appearance of a double line of marines under arms, drawn up in the passage leading to the church.

BRIDAL PRESENT TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

ALTHOUGH more than two years have elapsed since the marriage of the Prince and Princess of Wales, her Royal Highness still continues to receive tokens of the affection with which she is re-



GENERAL VIEW OF SIMONOSAKI, JAPAN.

The base is formed of silver, obtained from the St. Arnaud mine, and is ornamented with groups of wild flowers and figures of kangaroos, emus, lyre birds, &c., in frosted silver. These figures are very beautifully executed, and are faithful copies of nature. Round the base are arranged a number of gold specimens from Hurley's Claim, Wood's Point; the Ajax mine, Castle-maine; and Poverty Reef, Tarnagulla.

These were presented by the proprietors of the claims in question, and many of them are of considerable richness. There are also some fine specimens of antimony ore, containing gold, from Coster and Field's Reef, at Heathcote. An oak-tree of gold, and a fern-tree of the same metal, rise side by side from the base, and are bound gracefully together by a vine, from which rich clusters of grapes depend. In this unusual combination of foliage, the designer, we understand, intended to convey an allegory; the oak representing the combined nationalities of England and Denmark, and the fern the colony of Victoria; while the vine, which is common both to the Old and the New World, is an emblem of the union which subsists between them. The acorns on the oak-tree, and the delicate leaves of the fern, have been executed with just attention to nature, and, as models, are perfect. Birds, in frosted silver, are perched on some of the branches, and pro-

duce a very pleasing effect. The stems of the trees support a bowl of fluted silver, highly polished, and ornamented round the edges with vine-leaves in frosted silver. Round the base, and equidistant from each other, are three shields of burnished silver, two of which bear the arms of the Princess and those of the

colony, while on the third is the following inscription:—"To her Royal Highness Alexandra, Princess of Wales. Bridal gift from the Colonists of Victoria, Australia. 1863." In the manufacture, forty ounces of fine gold and 174 ounces of silver were used, 140 ounces being employed for the base alone. Mr. N. Edwards, manufacturer for Messrs. Walsh Brothers, Collins-street East, Melbourne, has the credit for the design.



STAIRCASE OF THE PAGODA, SIMONOSAKI.

THE FRENCH IN MEXICO

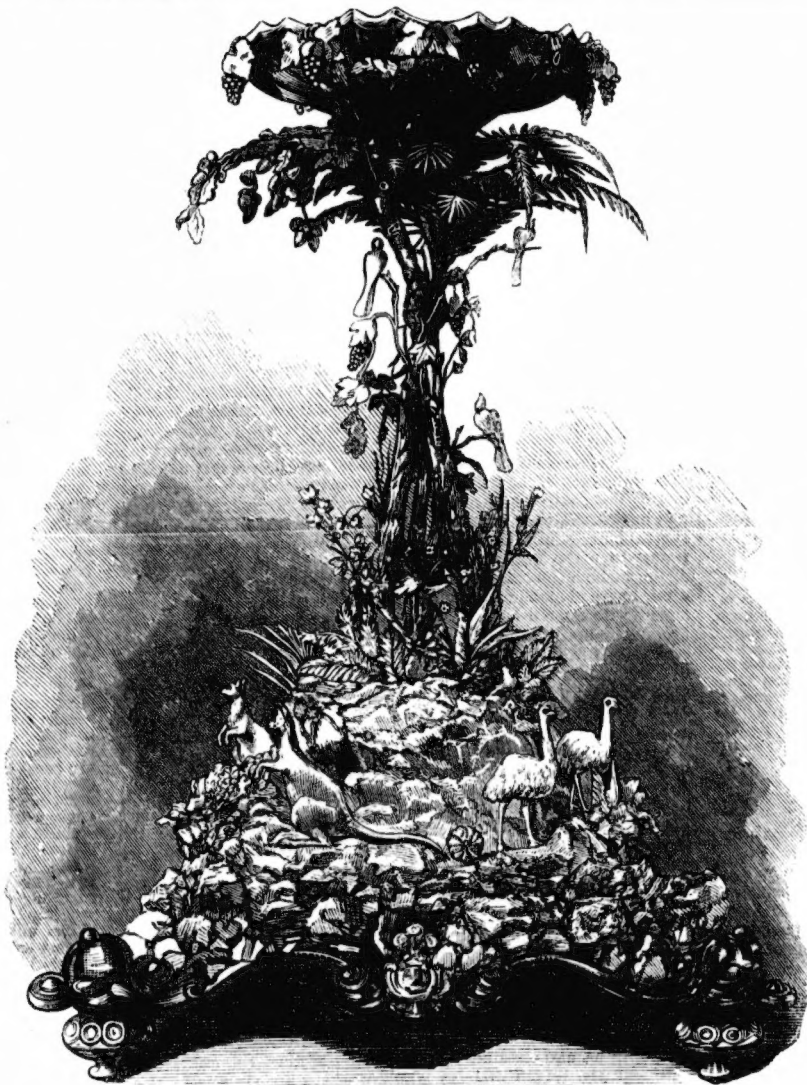
THE Mexican war is, it is said, almost at an end. Everywhere the insurgent chiefs are giving in their submissions to the victorious generals, and nothing is required but a greater development of the present organization fully to establish the power of the Emperor Maximilian. All this may be true, and yet under the surface of that half savage Mexican society there may still be smoldering the elements of a strife which only needs opportunity to burst out again into a blaze. There is no doubt that the predatory bands—half soldiers, half robbers—are many of them at their old work, and there is still reason to dread that, unless the whole country be well guarded, they may unite in an attack upon the first place which offers an easy prey. Our Engravings, however, represent the last regular engagement

between the French troops and the insurgent force at a place called Majoma, where the troops of Juarez made what is supposed to be their last determined stand.

Juarez, after having concentrated near Nazas the regular troops of Generals Ortega, Patoni, and Negrete, and so formed an army of about 4500 men and twenty pieces of cannon, gave the command of the entire force to General Ortega, who, since the defence of Puebla, had taken no very active part in the war. He had raised a number of new troops, it is true; but, when the French presented themselves before Zacatecas, he had retreated without showing fight, a line of conduct which was imitated by Patoni and Negrete at Durango and Monterey. It would now appear that these retreats were a combined plan of operations between Ortega and the other two Generals, and that the French were to be attacked when their main body was weakened by being dispersed over a line of some 350 leagues, when the same plan was to be tried as that adopted by Kutusoff upon Kalouga—that is to say, that the insurgents were to steal upon the French suddenly and cut their line of communication.

All these plans, however, were frustrated by the bravery of the column under command of Colonel Martin, which covered the approaches to Durango. This column was composed of five companies of Zouaves, one of Chasseurs à Pied, and one squadron of Chasseurs de France; in all, fewer than 600 combatants, who had the audacity, without field artillery, to attack the Juarist army, strongly established, with twenty pieces of cannon, upon the "Cerro" of Majoma. Unfortunately, Colonel Martin fell during the engagement; but the command was taken by the next officer, Jassy, of the 2nd Zouaves, who finished what his chief had begun, and what, but for the determined bravery of the troops, must have been a mad enterprise. The combat was a bloody one, but was very short, sharp, and decisive. The Zouaves carried the Cerro of Majoma at the point of the bayonet, and that was the key of the whole position. The Chasseurs de France charged headlong upon the Juarist infantry when they endeavoured to resume the offensive, and the Chasseurs à Pied pursued them until they were compelled to abandon their artillery.

The French loss, however, was very severe, one man in seven being either killed or wounded; but very high praise is given to the medical staff, who showed the utmost courage and promptitude in giving their assistance to the wounded men. The results of this brilliant affair are of very great importance, since the Juarist army has lost its artillery and baggage, and is, it is believed, now entirely broken up, if not disbanded.



WEDDING PRESENT FROM AUSTRALIA TO THE PRINCESS OF WALES.

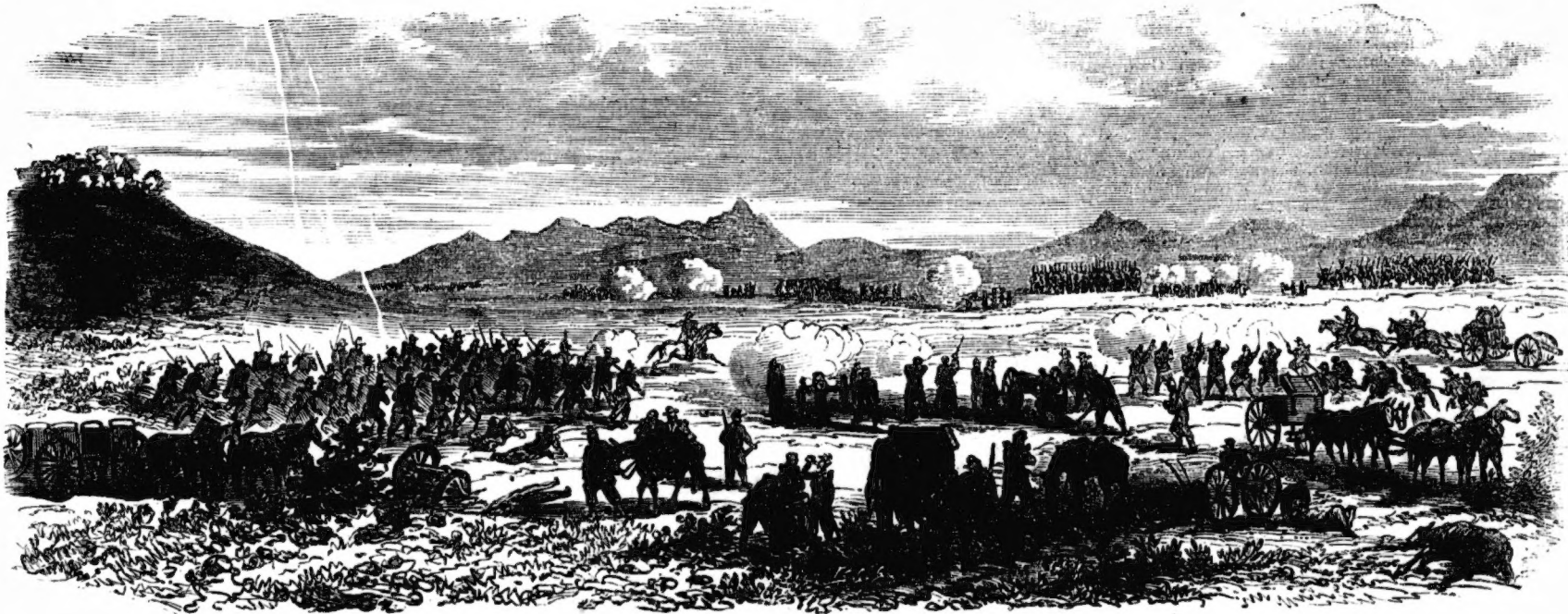
An expedition which started for Oajaca some time ago consisted of about 2000 French, with twenty pieces of artillery, under the command of General Courtois d'Hurbal. Perfirio Diaz, who may literally be called the last of the Juarists, is the chief they have gone to attack. He is at the head of between three and four thousand men, and, having expended some months in fortifying the city of Oajaca, some believe that he will make a fight of it.

Mazatlan has been occupied by the French, and Colima was taken possession of by Marquez some few days previously. The possession of these ports will soon be followed by the pacification of all that part of the country, as the great majority of the population, especially the Indians, are known to be in favour of the empire.

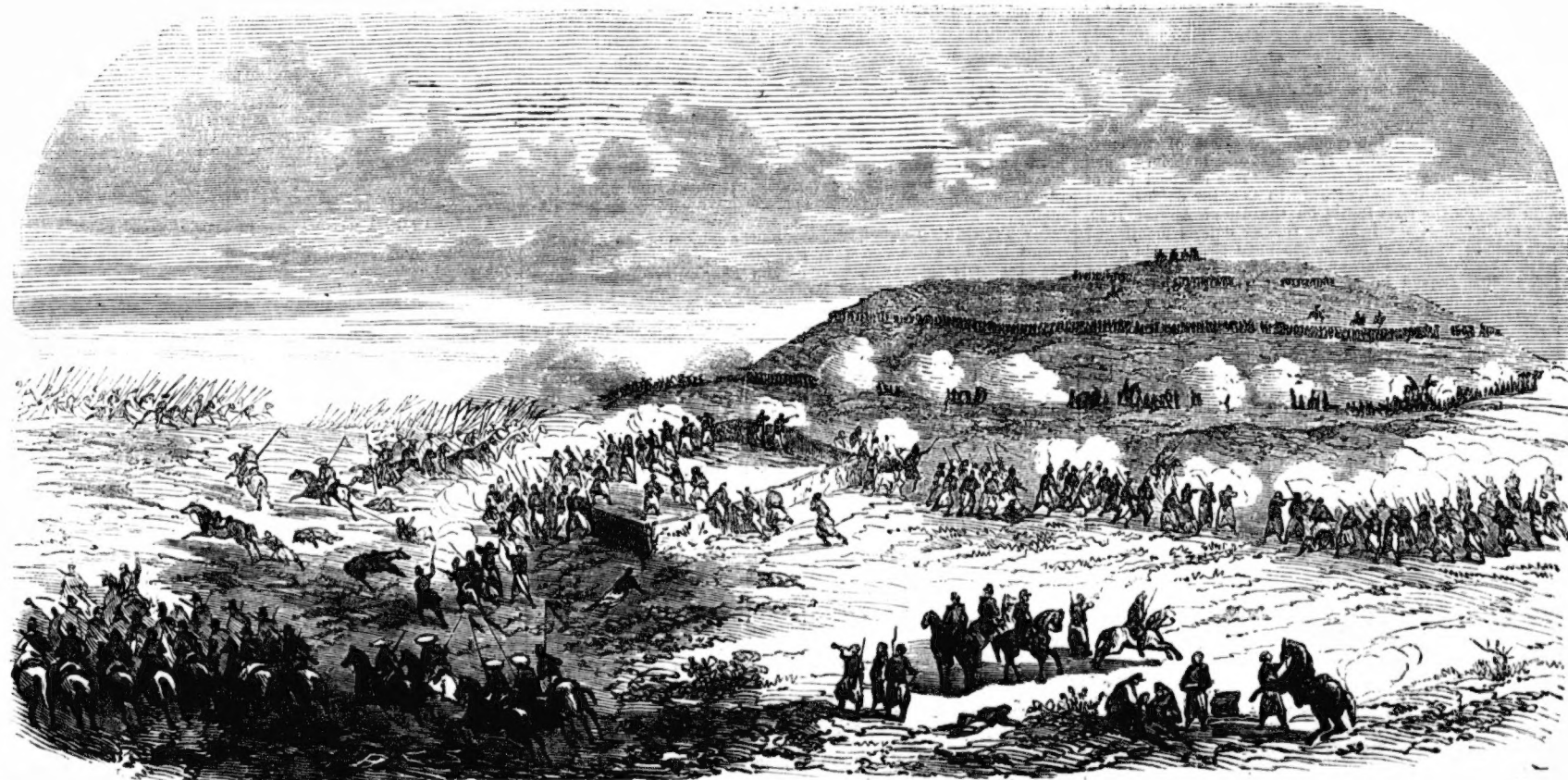
Old Juan Alvarez, who had been reported killed at least twenty times, is dead at last. He has been succeeded in his government by his son Diego, who seems disposed, for the moment at least, to consider the State of Guerrero as his own particular inheritance. The fact, however, of a portion of the State having already declared in favour of the empire will, perhaps, induce this doughty warrior to abate somewhat of his pretensions.

SOUTH AMERICAN JERKED BEEF.

ABOUT a year ago a commission was formed for the introduction into Great Britain of the South American jerked beef. The commission included the names of some of the leading merchants of London, Manchester, Liverpool, and Glasgow, and the results of the experiment are now before us. In Monte Video and other districts of South America the grasses are so rich that flesh meat has become a nuisance to the natives. It was thought, therefore, that if the surplus meat could be introduced into this country the poorer classes, to whom butcher's meat is a positive luxury, might more frequently indulge in a wholesome and nutritious meal. The experiment, so far, has been perfectly successful, the importations having increased from 93,436,000 lb., in 1858, to 255,000,000 lb. in 1863; and this had found a ready consumption in the manufacturing and mining districts, and in Scotland and Ireland, where it has been retailed at 3d. per pound. The "jerked" beef is prepared from the choicest parts of the animal. The flesh is cut into flakes, dipped in brine, and dried in the sun. When steeped in water for cooking it increases threefold in weight and thickness. Full instructions for its preparation have been issued by the commission, and dinners have been given to the working classes in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin, on which occasions the highest testimony to the palatable and nutritious qualities of this



THE WAR IN MEXICO: BATTLE OF MAJOMA.



ZOUAVES CARRYING THE MEXICAN POSITION AT MAJOMA.

n article of food have been given by the municipal and scientific authorities. It is said to be capable of being so highly cooked as to be a delicious relish for the rich; while for the poor man's table, simply prepared, it is healthy and invigorating food. Being entirely without bone, it is especially adapted for Irish stews, haricots, &c. At the experimental dinner given at Glasgow, Dr. Macleod stated that there could be no doubt the meat was perfectly wholesome, and that, if it could be brought into general consumption, at 3d. per pound, working men would be enabled to have a good piece of meat in the pot any day they liked; and Dr. Guthrie rejoiced in this effort to bring this product of another part of the globe to where it would be of essential service to the working poor. If the working man could be supplied with good solids like those they had tasted, he would be less likely to meddle with baneful drinks. At the working-men's supper given at Edinburgh by the Social Science Congress similar testimony was given by Lord Ardmillan, Professor Archer, Sir W. Johnston, and other eminent men, and their opinions are fortified by scientific examinations of Dr. Letheby, Dr. Wallace, and other eminent analysts. It is not expected to supersede the use of fresh meat, but it is believed that no greater boon has been lately offered to the public. As the supply of animal food from these fertile districts is practically unlimited, it is hoped that no effort will be spared to bring it to the tables of the underfed and often overworked classes of Great Britain.

The following directions for cooking the beef have been published by authority of the commission:—

Steep the beef for three or four hours, or wash it well in hot water. 1st. Cut it in small pieces, about an inch square; simmer it by the fire one hour and a half, add potatoes, pepper and onions; and again cook slowly until ready; it will then be found a very good Irish stew. 2nd. Mince, in the form of mince collops; cook it slowly, and when ready mix it up with mashed potatoes; it may then be put in a dish and browned in the oven. 3rd. Cut into pieces, and after simmering an hour and a half add turnips, carrots, or other vegetables, such as used in a haricot. 4th. It will also make very good pea-soup, and is also used in first-class hotels for giving a delightful flavour to all kinds of soup, particularly to kidney and other similar classes. In short, a good housewife will find a hundred ways of making it available and agreeable. 5th. It can be used as mince collops, without potatoes; and a fitch is sometimes taken, rolled up and spiced in the form of a beef ham, which must be cooked slowly.

WRECK OF H.M.S. RACEHORSE.

THE wreck of her Majesty's ship Racehorse in the China seas, with ninety-nine hands on board, is a disaster of a kind that we rarely have to record. Modern seamanship and the modern power of steam have so reduced the perils of the ocean that even merchantmen of the class that go on long voyages seldom founder or get ashore. When we hear that such a vessel has gone down off a coast that is perfectly well explored, and that only nine out of a crew of 107 have been saved, we naturally expect to find that some dire and exceptional complication of misfortunes overtook her.

On the contrary, the accident which befel the Racehorse seems at present to defy explanation. The account of it that has reached us is derived from her commander, Captain Boxer, who is, happily, one of the survivors, but whose report is conveyed through Lieutenant Nicolas, of the Insolent. We must presume that Captain Boxer was himself too ill or too much exhausted to give any description of the event in his own handwriting, and attribute to the same cause the fragmentary character of the details thus transmitted. We learn from Captain Hayes, commanding the Tartar at Shanghai, and senior officer of the North China division, that the Racehorse had been ordered to leave that port for Chefoo—we suppose the harbour at the entrance of the Pecheli Gulf. At half-past eight on the evening of Nov. 4, when she had arrived within five leagues of Chefoo Cape, and was about two miles east of White Rock, she seems to have struck; not that this fact is stated directly, but we infer it from the remark in Lieutenant Nicolas's letter to Captain Hayes, that "at the time of the ship striking it was comparatively smooth." It is tolerably clear, then, that stress of weather had nothing to do with the collision up to this time; but whether the rock was marked on the Admiralty charts or was unknown to seamen we have no means of judging. However, "boats were lowered, stream-anchor and cable placed in boats ready to lay out, when heavy rollers set in, swamping both cutters and gig, and breaking entirely over the ship. The masts were then cut away, and the ship steamed full speed on shore, endeavouring to save life; but the wind increasing to a gale, the rollers washed away all skylights and filled the ship. The ship's company were then sent aft," doubtless because the fore part of the vessel was under water or swept by the waves. They were "told the position of the ship, and that if they held on till daylight there was every hope of all hands being saved." They did their best, and Captain Boxer bears emphatic testimony to the "most cool and collected" behaviour of all, both officers and men, during the horrors of this fearful night. They "obeyed every order smartly and energetically," and the first lieutenant, master, and boatswain, of whom only the last was saved, set them a noble example. But the struggle with the elements was too much for the endurance of all but nine, and the rest "dropped off one by one from the effects of the cold and the force of the sea." As soon as Captain Hayes received the news, he dispatched the Rattler to render any further assistance that might be possible. The circumstance that ten bodies had already been recovered and buried within three days after the wreck is strong presumption that all these lives must have been lost near the shore.

The Racehorse, 4, screw gun-vessel, 200-horse power, and 695 tons, was built for the Admiralty by Messrs. Wigram and Co., at the commencement of 1860, and was afterwards sent to Chatham to be fitted with screw-engines. She was first commissioned at Sheerness, May 16, 1862, by Commander Charles Richard Fox Boxer, and left for China on the 2nd of June following, calling at Portsmouth next day. At that port she had very extensive alterations made, and a very large amount of defects made good, but all of which were necessary for the comfort and safety of the crew. She went out of harbour on July 17 to test her machinery, and again returned to have defects repaired. She steamed out of Portsmouth Harbour on the 29th of July to test her engines, and ventured to start for the East Indies on the 4th of August, 1862. On arriving at Plymouth the next day further defects manifested themselves, and she went into harbour to have them made good, which, having been done, she left on the 10th, and was at Madeira on the 20th. She arrived in Simon's Bay Oct. 18, and was at Singapore Dec. 8. She left Singapore for Hong-Kong Dec. 15, where she remained until Feb. 25, 1863, when she sailed for Jeddo, Japan. She had since been principally employed in carrying the mails between Japan and Shanghai.

Commander Boxer is about thirty years of age. He entered the Navy in 1847, and passed his examination in seamanship Feb. 5, 1854, and was nominated thereupon acting-mate of the Cumberland, 70, flagship, on the North American and West India station; and from the following April, until 1855, was employed in the same capacity, and as Acting-Lieutenant in the Harpy, flagship of Admirals Edward Boxer, the Hon. Montagu Stopford, and the Hon. F. W. Grey, in the Bosphorus. He was advanced to Lieutenant April 14, 1855, and, on Oct. 12 following, appointed to the Calcutta, 84, at Portsmouth; Feb. 8, 1856, to the command, for a short time, of the Goldfinch, gun-boat; and subsequently to his former ship, the Cumberland, bearing the flag of Sir Stephen Lushington, on the south-east coast of America, and remained until paid off in the spring of 1859. He was promoted to Commander Aug. 6, 1860, and was afterwards, for a short time, employed in the transport service.

Master Thomas Dobbin, who is amongst the lost, was Acting-Second-Master of the Cornwallis, 60, in the Baltic, from April, 1855, until the close of the Russian War; of the Iris, 26, on the Australian station, from Feb. 1857, until paid off in the spring of 1861; next of the Victory for a short time; and of the Doterel, on the south-east coast of America, from Oct. 1861, until promoted to Master, Oct. 3, 1862. He had been Master of the Racehorse since July 21, 1863.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THERE is, of course, very little musical news at this highly pantomimic season—unless it be news to some of our readers that the next series of Monday Popular Concerts commences on the 16th. The English Opera Company is not disbanding its musical army, but it is reducing its active force, and announces that a considerable number of its singers are at liberty to accept engagements in the provinces. This means, we suppose, that the highly successful pantomime is to be played some weeks longer—probably until the end of the season. In the meanwhile, those who go to Covent Garden too soon for the pantomime hear Mr. Benedict's "Bride of Song." The operetta, given by way of *lever de rideau*, at Her Majesty's Theatre is Mr. Levey's "Punchinello."

We are told, by trustworthy persons who have visited the Alhambra, that Mr. Strange's ballet, or dancing divertissement, or "stage play," or whatever it ought to be called, is not quite so gorgeous an affair as Mr. Wigan, Mr. Wigan's counsel, and Mr. Wigan's witnesses would have Mr. Tyrwhitt believe. The splendour of the entertainment seems to have been magnified so that the injury inflicted by it upon rival entertainments might appear the greater. The Alhambra ballet, we are assured, is not so very magnificent an affair after all. If the regular theatres can produce nothing better, then the regular theatres must be in a very bad way.

But the fact is, the regular theatres are getting on very well just now. Thanks to the spectacular attractions of their pantomimes and burlesques, they are full every night; and it seems strange that the selfishness of the managers should prompt them now, of all times, to make war upon the director of a place of amusement, against whom the chief accusation seems to be that he also obtains a fair share of public patronage. It is not at all clear how the law stands with reference to exhibitions of dancing given at places, like the Alhambra, which have no license for dramatic performances. But it is certain that Mr. Strange has a license for music and dancing granted to him by the Middlesex magistrates, and that he received it on the express understanding that it was not the visitors to his establishment that were to dance; that, in short, the place was not to be turned into a casino. What did the magistrates mean, then, if not that the dancing, like the singing, was to be performed by professional persons engaged for the purpose? And, if professional dancers were to appear before the public, how, we should like to know, were they to do so if not on a platform or stage? These are questions that might be put to the counsel for the prosecution when the case comes to be argued on appeal; and we fancy he would find it no easy matter to answer them.

If Mr. Wigan and his co-operators make any pretence of acting in this matter on behalf of the public, we should ask them why they make no endeavour to put down the casinos? Mr. Wigan was asked before Mr. Tyrwhitt whether he would regard the Lancers or the first set of quadrilles, danced in plain clothes, as a theatrical entertainment, and, oddly enough (if his words were correctly reported) he replied that he would. What really constitutes a theatrical entertainment or stage play, and what Mr. Wigan chooses to say constitutes a theatrical entertainment or stage play, may be, and certainly are, two very different things. Nevertheless, if Mr. Wigan and his fellow-workers are sincere in their belief that a quadrille danced in plain clothes is a theatrical entertainment, why do they not open fire against the proprietors or directors of the casinos, where quadrilles are danced in plain (and also highly-coloured) clothes every night? If they maintain that the dancing at these places is not of the nature of an exhibition, they are wrong. We believe it to be a very remarkable exhibition, in which the respectable visitors take no part, but remain mere spectators throughout the evening.

The fact, however, is that the casinos are not so much places of amusement as places of dissipation; and they are, therefore, by no means such formidable rivals to the regular theatres as the Alhambra, where everything seems to be conducted with perfect propriety.

If the London managers are so anxious that no place of theatrical entertainment should exist in London without being duly licensed, how is it that they have nothing to say against the directors of "entertainments" specifically so called? "The Soldier's Legacy" and "Jenny Lea," played at the Gallery of Illustration, are termed "Operettas," and both of them are founded on well known dramatic pieces. "Jenny Lea" is simply a translation or adaptation of "L'Elisir d'Amore," and "The Soldier's Legacy" is taken from a popular French play—of which, for the moment, we forget the title. Do not let it be imagined that we are "denouncing" the admirably-managed Gallery of Illustration. There is no probability of Mr. and Mrs. German Reed's performance being stopped, and no ground for attempting to stop it; but, certainly, Mr. Macfarren's operettas are more of the nature of "stage plays" than the unconnected dances given one after the other at the Alhambra. Only, comparatively speaking, very few people go to the Gallery of Illustration (the room will not hold many), and of those who do attend it a considerable proportion do not belong to the class of ordinary playgoers, but are sanctified, scrupulous persons, who believe that theatre-going is one of the many roads that lead to perdition, and who (which is still more astonishing) persuade themselves that an operetta is not a stage play at all.

There is far more acting even in Mr. Arthur Sketchley's unpretending but highly interesting entertainment than in the now-celebrated war dance of the Alhambra ballet-girls. But the real question to which the London managers have been devoting their attention is not so much "what is and what is not a stage play," as "which is the entertainment now open in London which attracts the greatest number of persons, who, if this entertainment did not exist, might seek amusement within the walls of a theatre?"

How is it, when managers in general are making such a dead set against the Alhambra (including Mr. E. T. Smith, formerly proprietor of the place), that the operatic managers in particular have no fault to find with concert-givers, who certainly perform portions of operas, just as Mr. Strange is accused of performing portions of stage plays? The airs, duets, and concerted pieces executed at our morning and evening concerts (we except those specially devoted to classical music) are almost invariably extracted from operas, and there can be no doubt as to an opera being a theatrical entertainment.

Mr. Tyrwhitt's decision, however, on the subject of the Alhambra seems based on the fact that stage-scenery is employed there. He also finds that there is a certain admixture of pantomime in the ballets performed. If Mr. Strange were to give up scenery and to cause the supposed attack upon an imaginary enemy to be omitted from one of the dances—then, according to the principles laid down by Mr. Tyrwhitt, his entertainment will no longer have an illegal character. If it be meant that dancing should not take place at all on the Alhambra platform or stage, what did the magistrates mean by granting Mr. Strange a dancing license, coupled with a condition that the place should not be made a dancing-room for the public?

The laws relating to theatrical and other entertainments are evidently in a very unsatisfactory state. For our part, we should like to see the proprietors of music-halls, Alhambras, and all such places, encouraged—or at least left at liberty—to raise the character of their performances. But if the London managers continue their crusade against all givers of entertainments that possess anything of a theatrical character, the operas and operatic selections that are now executed very creditably at the better class of music-halls, will have to be abandoned, and the misguided people who are accustomed to drink, smoke, and listen to music all at the same time will be condemned never to hear anything more elevating than comic songs and the "Cure," though, as the "Cure" is highly pantomimic, some magistrate may decide that that also is a theatrical entertainment.

A MAN AND HIS WIFE were tried in France, a few days ago, for murdering their son, aged eighteen. They first kicked him to death, and then suspended the body to a tree, in order to make their neighbours believe the youth had committed suicide. The woman was acquitted; the father was sentenced to twenty years' hard labour.

IRELAND.

LEGAL CHANGES.—Mr. Justice Ball, second Justice of the Court of Common Pleas, has given notice of his intention to retire immediately from the Bench, which he has occupied since 1839. He was called to the Bar in 1814, so that his professional career has lasted half a century. Owing to failing health, his resignation has been expected some time. According to the usual course of promotion, his place on the Bench would be taken by the Attorney-General, Mr. O'Hagan. Mr. Lawson, now Solicitor-General, would be Attorney-General; and Mr. Serjeant Sullivan, now Law Adviser, would probably succeed to the solicitor-generalship. But there seems to be some doubt whether Mr. O'Hagan will accept the vacant judgeship, for which Mr. Brewster has been spoken of.

SCOTLAND.

EDINBURGH NATIONAL GALLERY.—A handsome addition has just been made to the Edinburgh National Gallery in the "Scott Drawings," a collection of fifty drawings bequeathed to the gallery by the late Mr. John Scott, well known in the art-world as a partner in the great house of Colnaghi and Co. Amongst these drawings, which are principally in chalk or black-lead pencil, are specimens of Gainsborough, Flaxman, Edwin Landseer, Prout, Danby, David Roberts, Collins, De Wint, David Cox, George Catermole, and William Beverley.

THE STATUE OF PROFESSOR WILSON.—A meeting of the general committee of subscribers to the fund for the erection of a statue to the late Professor John Wilson has been held in Edinburgh, for the purpose of hearing the report of the sub-committee, and making arrangements for the inauguration of the statue. The Lord Justice-General presided. Dr. R. Chambers read the report, which stated that the bronze statue was now finished, and the pedestal nearly completed, and that an early day might be named for the inauguration. Several gentlemen present expressed their great admiration of the statue, remarking that Mr. Steell had succeeded in producing a most striking likeness and beautiful work of art. It was remitted to the sub-committee to make the necessary preparations for the inauguration, which will probably take place on an early day in February, and on the same day as the inauguration of Mr. Steell's marble statue of Allan Ramsay. The committee resolved to tender a vote of thanks to the Town Council for their kindness in granting a sight for the Wilson statue in East Princes-street Garden, corresponding to the site for the Ramsay statue in the West Garden.

ROBBERY OF £3000.—About the middle of May last, a young, sickly-looking man, calling himself Charles Walter Thorne, arrived in Ayr, and on alighting at the station inquired of Mr. Blair, station-master, if he could recommend him to a quiet lodging in the neighbourhood. He was directed to a house in the suburbs, where he obtained furnished apartments. He was in very delicate health, and was attended by a medical gentleman of the town. He remained here about a fortnight, during which time he took daily carriage-drives, and his health seemed to improve considerably. He said he expected a lady, whom he had intrusted with the transaction of some urgent business for him in London, to call for him, and he went frequently to the station to meet her, but she never came. At last he said he should require to go to London himself, and he accordingly set off on a Monday morning, promising that he would return in a few days. He sent a telegram announcing his safe arrival in the metropolis; but nothing further was heard of him until Wednesday, when a lithographed circular was received at the various banks in town (accompanying which was a carte de visite of the stranger), stating that his real name was Walter H. Dalgleish, late a clerk in the service of the Borneo Banking Company at Hong-Kong, and that he had robbed the company of a £4000 draught, for which he obtained cash in London. On the 5th of May, Dalgleish paid £1000 in Bank of England notes for £50 each into the Mercantile and Exchange Bank at London, in the name of Ralph Ensign, to be remitted to his credit with the Glasgow branch of that bank. He also paid £1580, in seventy-nine like notes, to the London Bank of Scotland, getting in exchange two orders of £790 each on their branch in Glasgow in favour of Ralph Ensign. He then, as Ralph Ensign, received payment of the £1000 and the £1580 in Scotch notes in Glasgow, after which he proceeded to Ayr. While in Ayr he showed a considerable amount in gold, as well as a number of unset diamonds and jewellery. He spoke of having a sister in Canada who was married to a Roman Catholic. The last glimpse got of Dalgleish was at the Crystal Palace, near London, on the 11th of June, since which all trace of him has been lost; but he is believed to have passed as Henry Gray, of Canada, and he may have gone to Canada or some other part of America. It is supposed that, after getting the £2580 in Glasgow, he must have opened an account with or procured on America, from some bank or banks, under the names of Walter H. Dalgleish, Ralph Ensign, Charles Walter Thorne, Henry Gray, or some other alias, and perhaps transferred the money from one bank to another to avoid being traced. It seems Dalgleish had been sent home by one of the partners of the Borneo Banking Company in Hong-Kong on account of the delicate state of his health, and he had stolen the draught before leaving, and the theft not being discovered for some time afterwards, he has had ample time to "go off to parts unknown."

THE PROVINCES.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL.—A large picture, representing the murder of Archbishop Becket, has just been placed by the Dean and Chapter in the north-choir aisle of Canterbury Cathedral. On the death of the historical painter John Cross, in 1861, it was found that his widow and children were left destitute, and on the attention of Lord Palmerston being called to the subject he directed a pension of £100 a year to be granted to them. These circumstances prompted some gentlemen interested in art to get up a fund to purchase Cross's unsold pictures, and three were bought:—1. "William the Conqueror Refusing the Crown." 2. "The Murder of Archbishop Becket." 3. "The Burial of the Young Princess in the Tower." It was resolved to present No. 1 to the National Gallery, No. 2 to Canterbury Cathedral, and No. 3 to Exeter Townhall. Mr. Cross having been a native of Devonshire, Mr. Cross gained the prize of £300 for his picture of "The Death of Richard Cour de Lion," which was placed by the Government in one of the committee-rooms of the House of Commons.

THE MINERS' NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.—At the meeting of the council of the Miners' National Association lately held at Wigan some interesting particulars in reference to the miners were made known. The Wigan colliers were said to be very desirous of avoiding strikes in future, and with this aim they propose renting a colliery and working it on the co-operative principle. The coal-cutting machines were reported to be failures. The Scotch miners have begun a movement for reducing the time of work to eight hours a day, and the prospects of the men are favourable. In two counties the principle has been adopted. On the whole, the condition of the miners was pronounced to be satisfactory.

EXTRAORDINARY INSTANCE OF HOARDING MONEY.—A few days ago a working man, of Lewes (one of whose aged parents died a short time before), presented himself at the bank of Messrs. Whitfield and Co., and inquired the rate of interest for deposits. Having been satisfied upon this point, he emptied upon the counter a basket of gold, which was found to be of no less than £1150 in value, the coins consisting of sovereigns and half-sovereigns. The bankers were somewhat surprised to receive such a deposit from so unexpected a quarter. The explanation, however, was soon tendered. The depositor's parents, industrious, steady people, it seemed, had been accumulating this sum during the whole of their lives (having lived considerably beyond the span of three score years and ten), and had carefully kept it secreted at the bottom of a large clothes-box in their cottage. The death of the wife rendering an alteration in the domestic arrangements necessary, brought to the knowledge of the surprised family the fact of their accumulated wealth, and led to its being deposited in a place of greater security and under more profitable circumstances.

A MADMAN IN A RAILWAY-TRAIN.—One evening, last week, two gentlemen were returning by rail from Whitehaven to Liverpool, by the night express-train from the north. They had, apparently, only one fellow-passenger, and he did not appear until they had proceeded some distance beyond Carnforth station. They were then alarmed by seeing a tall, ferocious-looking person, with a huge beard and moustache, wildly running along the carriage-steps and moving backwards and forwards in a most extraordinary manner. As the person was proceeding at a rapid rate, the person in question appeared to be exposing himself to the greatest danger. Among other strange movements, he looked into the compartment in which the two gentlemen were sitting, and, bursting out into a kind of hysterical laugh, he asked them who they were. The gentlemen so addressed naturally formed the opinion that the man was demented, and, on the arrival of the train at Lancaster, they called the attention of the porter to the circumstance; but, as if having "method in his madness," he was then quietly seated in his carriage, and was allowed to proceed in the train. Shortly after leaving Lancaster, he resumed his eccentric and dangerous performances on the carriage-steps, which he continued all the way to Preston, where the train arrived a few minutes before eleven o'clock. Here, again, the attention of the porters was called to his conduct, but, as at Lancaster, he had managed to seat himself in his carriage, and was quiet, and the authorities did not feel justified in detaining him. In a few minutes the train again started, and between Preston and Wigan his conduct became still more extraordinary and alarming. The train was going at a very rapid pace, during which the man was seen to skip along the carriage steps, backwards and forwards, displaying the agility of a cat. At one moment he was seen, while the next, like an apparition, he was out of sight. On more than one occasion he looked into the carriage where the two gentlemen were sitting, and, presenting a pistol, declared his intention of shooting them. The terror and alarm which this threat caused may be easily conceived; for the two gentlemen were not in a position to offer any resistance to the madman. It was a great relief to them when the train arrived at Wigan, a little before half-past eleven o'clock. Feeling that their lives were in jeopardy, they jumped out of the train, determined to go no further if their fellow-traveller was allowed to proceed. They informed the authorities there of his extraordinary conduct during the whole of the journey from Carnforth, and ultimately he was taken into custody at Wigan, when he was found to be suffering under a violent attack of delirium tremens.

LAW AND CRIME.

A WOMAN named McDermot applied to Mr. Selfe, at Westminster, for assistance in the recovery of her daughter, aged about sixteen. The girl was of pleasing appearance and had been accustomed to sit to an artist as a model. She had left her home some days before the application and had not returned. The mother had reason to believe that a person known as "Father" Bowden, connected with an ultra Roman Catholic establishment called the "Oratory," at Brompton, had had something to do with the girl's disappearance. Had she been under sixteen years the magistrate would have had the power of issuing a warrant against any person concerned in her abduction. As the age could not be clearly shown, Mr. Selfe, although he could not interpose judicially, thought the case of sufficient public importance to warrant him in writing a letter to Father Bowden. In a few hours an answer arrived by the hands of Mrs. McDermot. To this Mr. Selfe sent a reply. On the following day the "Father" attended the court. He is described as being a very young man. He was questioned by Mr. Selfe, and admitted that he had, about a year ago, urged the girl to go into a "home." "Then, Sir," said Mr. Selfe, "if the mother's story be correct, she was only fifteen years of age; and if you had induced her to leave her home at that time, you would have been liable to three years' imprisonment." Bowden admitted that the girl had, with his concurrence, gone into a "home" or conventual establishment for penitents and "incorrigibles." Where this place is situated does not appear by the reports, but it seems that it is some miles from town. He was asked whether he had ever written to the girl, and, after answering at first "not lately; if he had done so it was some months ago," afterwards said he had never done so to his recollection. He endeavoured to impugn the character of the mother, and declared her unworthy of credit, an observation which certainly attached with greater reason to himself, as he subsequently admitted that all he had heard against her had been mere reports, while the poor woman has since brought forward convincing testimonies as to her respectability. It was then arranged that Bowden would inform Mr. Selfe whether the girl could be seen. The result was that Mr. Selfe—who, in order to avoid the shadow of scandal, took Mrs. Selfe with him—was allowed to see the girl. And now comes the most curious part of the story. The girl appears to have made some mysterious statements which Mr. Selfe feels himself bound to conceal even from the mother. She declares that she sought the "home" by her own free will, and desires to remain there. Whereupon Mr. Selfe at once throws up his honorary brief (for, as he did not act magisterially, he must be considered in the light of a counsel for the public or for Mrs. McDermot, or both), and is contented with a declaration on the part of Bowden that at some future and unfixed date the mother may perhaps be allowed to see her daughter "under restrictions." Surely Mr. Selfe's clients will not be satisfied with this. From all that can be gleaned from what has been allowed to transpire—and Mr. Selfe has rivalled Bowden himself in secretiveness—this "home" is a kind of amateur prison, under the control of priests, who allow young fellows like Bowden to inveigle children into becoming inmates of its walls. We view the affair entirely apart from any question of sectarianism, but as a purely social and legal matter. To institute a private gaol, under no public supervision, under no legal authority, and to use its influence to induce females of tender years to enter it, debarring them from full and unrestricted access to their natural and lawful guardians, is utterly repugnant to English notions of propriety, even although the establishment should be conducted by priests. Who knows under what threats, coercion, or persuasion this girl may have been induced to make the statements to which Mr. Selfe has lent so ready an ear, but which may nevertheless be false? If such practices be permitted in the case of a poor widow's daughter, who can guarantee the safety of any young woman of any class in society?

Major Lumley, who, it may be remembered, was committed for trial for having indulged the desire of meeting a solicitor in a duel, has taken the advice of his counsel and retracted his challenge. He has been discharged upon giving recognisances to keep the peace.

There has been a kind of strike among the prisoners at Whitecross-street. Arrest for debt was once considered, like a rent in a garment, "an accident that might happen to any gentleman," but more recently the rules of the prison have been rapidly increasing in stringency. Lord Westbury's great Act for the encouragement of swindling, under the mask of bankruptcy reform, has rendered imprisonment for debt only a terror to the poorest and most desolate of debtors. The prisoner who retains a few pounds now files his petition: the failing merchant puts himself into the hands of his creditors. If a debtor be so unlucky as to be arrested, the sponging-house is still open to him so long as he has a sovereign. The defendants arrested now are usually penniless, and not unfrequently working men captured upon judgment-summons by tallies, of which the unlucky debtor may have known nothing previously to his being sued. Such classes as these afford capital opportunities for experimental governors of gaols. The last new stroke of tyranny upon these unfortunates has been to deny access to them by their friends upon Sunday. The prisoners have resolved upon a kind of tacit revolt by refusing to attend Divine service in the prison on the first day of the week, while declaring that this is through no disrespect to the Chaplain.

Alderman Carden attended the police court at Marlborough-street to complain of the neglect of the police in allowing an itinerant clergyman to collect a crowd, every fine Sunday morning, before Trinity Church and at the top of Great Portland-street. The Alderman declared that the preacher made it a rule to abuse the rich; and that he frequently pointed to Trinity Church, saying, "There is a church full of aristocrats." Also that he preached "far from the doctrines of peace, for, in speaking of workhouses, he called them prisons and bastilles." The Alderman had spoken on the matter to the policeman on duty near the spot; but the official said that he was there to watch the costermongers' barrows. This is what our police system is coming to rapidly. Constables are set, not as a public watch, to prevent nuisance or crime, but to carry out the despotic orders of the Scotland-yard authorities. We have no wish to comment upon the doctrines promul-

gated by the clerical gentleman who has excited Sir Robert Carden's anger. The preacher is certainly not the first of his creed who has warned the rich or who has denounced our poor-law system, and certainly Alderman Carden ought to be the last to complain of a policeman for diligently carrying out a system of repression against street-sellers, Sir Robert having been one of the prime agents in such repression. In fact, the policeman is only a practical, or journeyman, Carden; and it is exactly of this matter that, as it appears to us, the public have a right to complain. So, apparently, thought Mr. Tyrwhitt, who made the following remarkable observation:—"The matter is entirely one for Scotland yard, and not for the magistrate. They are the executive, and this is the judicial part. There is an encroaching power springing up, but we shall soon find out who is the strongest. There is a strong under-current going on, but it will not do." It is not unlikely that Mr. Tyrwhitt had in his mind the late illegal police order as to the boardmen. At all events, we should much like to see our suggestion of last week carried out by a policeman bringing a boardman before Mr. Tyrwhitt.

THEATRES AND MUSIC-HALLS.—Mr. Tyrwhitt, the police magistrate at Marlborough-street, gave judgment on Wednesday on the question brought before him by the managers of various theatres, whether the entertainment produced at the Royal Alhambra was not such an "entertainment of the stage" as made it an infraction of the law when performed in an unlicensed place such as the Alhambra. The magistrate, after a careful review of the arguments and cases cited before him on a previous day, decided that the entertainment was a violation of the law, and inflicted a mitigated penalty, with a view to having the question carried before a higher court.

MONEY OPERATIONS OF THE WEEK.

THE transactions in Home Stocks having been on the increase, and the demand for accommodation far from active, prices have shown rather more firmness than in the previous week. Consols, for Money, have realised 99½; Ditto, for Account, 99½; Reduced and New Three per Cent, 89½; Each Exch. Bill par to 5s prem. Bank Stock has ruled at 100, at 230 to 241.

Indian securities have continued very firm, at extreme quotations. India stock has sold at 24½ to 25½; Ditto, New 1858, 100½; Ditto, 1859, 100½; Ditto, 1860, 100½; Ditto, 1861, 100½; Ditto, 1862, 100½; Ditto, 1863, 100½; Ditto, 1864, 100½; Ditto, 1865, 100½; Ditto, 1866, 100½; Ditto, 1867, 100½; Ditto, 1868, 100½; Ditto, 1869, 100½; Ditto, 1870, 100½; Ditto, 1871, 100½; Ditto, 1872, 100½; Ditto, 1873, 100½; Ditto, 1874, 100½; Ditto, 1875, 100½; Ditto, 1876, 100½; Ditto, 1877, 100½; Ditto, 1878, 100½; Ditto, 1879, 100½; Ditto, 1880, 100½; Ditto, 1881, 100½; Ditto, 1882, 100½; Ditto, 1883, 100½; Ditto, 1884, 100½; Ditto, 1885, 100½; Ditto, 1886, 100½; Ditto, 1887, 100½; Ditto, 1888, 100½; Ditto, 1889, 100½; Ditto, 1890, 100½; Ditto, 1891, 100½; Ditto, 1892, 100½; Ditto, 1893, 100½; Ditto, 1894, 100½; Ditto, 1895, 100½; Ditto, 1896, 100½; Ditto, 1897, 100½; Ditto, 1898, 100½; Ditto, 1899, 100½; Ditto, 1900, 100½; Ditto, 1901, 100½; Ditto, 1902, 100½; Ditto, 1903, 100½; Ditto, 1904, 100½; Ditto, 1905, 100½; Ditto, 1906, 100½; Ditto, 1907, 100½; Ditto, 1908, 100½; 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